CITY HILIGHTS

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The Truth Speaks

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B'LURU REDRAWS POLICING MAP

CITY GETS NEW CHIEF COMMISSIONER, 5 ZONAL CHIEFS

The restructuring is aimed at strengthening law & order management, improving policing efficiency and addressing traffic-related challenges in India's IT capital.

BENGALURU

In a major overhaul of Bengaluru's policing system, the Karnataka government has created five zonal police commissionerates under a new Chief Commissioner of Police (CCoP), decentralising the city's police administration and giving a separate head to traffic policing.

Bengaluru city got its first police commissioner in 1963. Exactly 63 years later, senior IPS officer R Hithendra has been appointed the first CCoP, Bengaluru City. He will head the revamped structure, which will have five zonal police commissioners overseeing Central, East, West, North and South Bengaluru.

The restructuring is aimed at strengthening law and order management, improving policing efficiency and addressing traffic-related challenges in India's IT capital.

5 Zonal Police Commissioners

Labhu Ram, who was serving as Inspector General of Police, Police Computer Wing, has been appointed Commissioner of Police, Central Bengaluru City.

Dr PS Harsha, who was serving as IG, Ballari Range, will take charge as Commissioner of Police, East Bengaluru City.

Vikas Kumar Vikas, who was serving in the Internal Security Division, has been appointed Commissioner of Police, West Bengaluru City.

Dr M B Boraligaiah, who was heading the Southern Range in Mysuru, will take charge as Commissioner of Police, North Bengaluru City.

C Vamsi Krishna has been appointed Joint Commissioner of Police (Administration), Bengaluru City, and given the additional charge of Commissioner of Police, South Bengaluru City.



Labhu Ram



Dr P S Harsha



R Hithendra



Vikas Kumar Vikas



Dr M B Boraligaiah



C Vamsi Krishna

1. New Police Structure

- Karnataka government restructures Bengaluru's policing system.
- Five zonal police commissionerates created under a Chief Commissioner of Police.
- R Hithendra appointed the first Chief Commissioner of Police, Bengaluru City.

2. Five Zonal Commissioners

- **Central**: Labhu Ram
- **East**: Dr P S Harsha
- **West**: Vikas Kumar Vikas
- **North**: Dr M B Boraligaiah
- **South**: C Vamsi Krishna

3. Separate Traffic Commissioner

- Hemant M Nimbalkar appointed Commissioner of Police (Traffic).
- Also given additional charge of the Anti-Rowdy Squad.
- To supervise crime control under the Chief Commissioner.

4. Other Police Appointments

- **Dr Anoop A Shetty** – DCP, Traffic, East.
- **Lokesh Bharamappa Jagalasar** – DCP, Traffic, Central.
- **Yatish N** – DCP, Kengeri.
- **Shrihari Babu B L** – DCP, Whitefield.
- **Ashok K V** – DCP, Peenya.
- **Amathe Vikram** – DCP, North Bengaluru.
- **Lakshmi Ganesh** – DCP, Gandhinagar.
- **Saidulu Adavath** – SP, Internal Security Division.

5. Transfer and Implementation

- Seemanth Kumar Singh transferred as ADGP and Commissioner, Karnataka State Fire and Emergency Services.
- All transfers and postings take immediate effect.
- Restructuring aims to decentralise administration, improve law & order and address B'luru's traffic challenges.

Traffic police gets separate commissioner

In another significant appointment, Hemant M Nimbalkar has been posted as Commissioner of Police (Traffic), Bengaluru City. He will also hold the additional charge of Commissioner of Police, Anti-Rowdy Squad, Bengaluru City, and supervise crime control under the Chief Commissioner.

The government has also announced several changes at the Deputy Commissioner of Police level.

Dr Anoop A Shetty has been appointed DCP (Traffic), East Bengaluru, while Lokesh Bharamappa Jagalasar will take charge as DCP (Traffic), Central Bengaluru.

Yatish N has been posted as DCP, Kengeri (South West), West Bengaluru, while Saidulu Adavath has been appointed Superintendent of Police, Internal Security Division, Bengaluru.

Shrihari Babu B L will take charge as DCP, Whitefield, East Bengaluru, while Ashok K V has been appointed DCP, Peenya, West Bengaluru.

Amathe Vikram has been posted as DCP, North Bengaluru, while Lakshmi Ganesh will take charge as DCP, Gandhinagar, Central Bengaluru.

Under the revamped arrangement, the Chief Commissioner will head the city's police administration, with five zonal commissioners and a separate commissioner overseeing traffic policing.

As per the government notification dated November 18, 2026, all transfers and postings will take immediate effect and remain in force until further orders.

TN asks Centre to block K'taka's Mekedatu Project on Cauvery

TN memorandum also pushed for adherence to appropriate legal regulations to safeguard inter-state river water rights and federal procedures.

CHENNAI

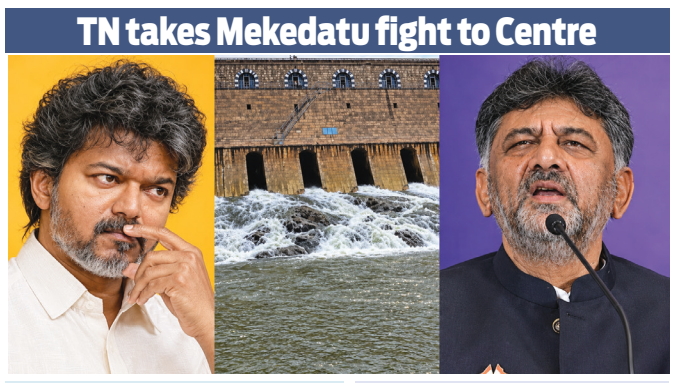
Amid a renewed push by Karnataka government to build a reservoir across the River Cauvery at Mekedatu, the Tamil Nadu government on Wednesday urged the Union Government to instruct the neighbouring state not to undertake any new projects without the approval and consent of all Cauvery basin states.

Water Resources Minister N Anand, PWD Minister Aadhav Arjuna, and School Education Minister A Rajmohan met Union Jal Shakti Minister CR Patil and submitted a detailed memorandum asserting the state's position on the proposed construction of a dam by Karnataka.

"Instructions should be given that the Karnataka government must not undertake any new projects, including the construction of new reservoirs or water diversion, on the Cauvery River and its tributaries without the statutory approval and consent of all basin states in the Cauvery basin," the Tamil Nadu government said in the memorandum.

It also pushed for adherence to appropriate legal regulations to safeguard inter-state river water rights and federal procedures.

TN takes Mekedatu fight to Centre



TN urges the Centre to stop Karnataka from taking up new Cauvery projects without the consent of all basin states.

The state warns that the project could adversely affect farmers, particularly in the Cauvery delta.

Three Tamil Nadu ministers submits a memorandum to Union Jal Shakti Minister C.R. Patil in New Delhi.

TN opposes Karnataka's move to secure Union approval for the project's Detailed Project Report (DPR).

TN says the proposed Mekedatu dam violates the Cauvery Tribunal's final award and the Supreme Court's 2018 judgment.

Karnataka maintains that the Mekedatu reservoir is crucial to meeting Bengaluru's drinking water needs.

> We will not compromise on our state's rights. Karnataka cannot go ahead with the project without the permission of the Tamil Nadu government. The interests of the lower riparian states should be protected and safeguarded.
>
> - **N Anand, Water Resources Minister**

"We will not compromise on our state's rights. Karnataka cannot go ahead with the project without the permission of the Tamil Nadu government. The interests of the lower riparian states should be protected and safeguarded," Anand told reporters in New Delhi.

Anand told Patil that the proposed dam by Karnataka is contrary to the final award of the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal and the February 16, 2018, judgment of the Supreme Court. "If this project is implemented, the livelihood of Tamil Nadu farmers will be severely affected," he added.

The Tamil Nadu government has consistently emphasised that the statutory approval of all Cauvery basin states is essential to construct any project across the river. "However, it is concerning that the Karnataka government is attempting to advance the Detailed Project Report (DPR) for the Mekedatu project for the Union Government's approval," he added.

Tamil Nadu and Karnataka have been at loggerheads over the proposed dam at Mekedatu for a decade now. While Tamil Nadu fears that the dam will have an adverse impact on the fortunes of farmers in the delta, more so during droughts, Karnataka has contended that it is vital to fulfilling the drinking water requirements of Bengaluru.

Prince William, Kate meet PM Modi on final day of India visit



NEW DELHI

Britain's Prince William and Princess Kate Middleton met Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi on Wednesday, on the final day of their three-day visit to India.

The meeting marked the culmination of their engagements in the country, which included the 2026 Earthshot Prize awards ceremony in Mumbai.

The bilateral meeting at Mr Modi's private residence follows the couple staging a glittering awards ceremony for William's Earthshot Prize last night in Mumbai.

A Kensington Palace spokesman said: "The United Kingdom and India share one of the most important international relationships, with deep and growing connections across trade, investment, defence, security, technology, education and culture."

"And this meeting reflects the importance of that relationship, as well as the role Their Royal Highnesses can play in celebrating and strengthening the ties between our two countries," he stated. "For the prince, it also represents another significant engagement as he continues to take on a growing role on the international stage.'

William and Kate arrived in Mumbai on Monday for the sixth edition of the annual Earthshot Prize awards.

Founded by William in 2020, the initiative seeks to identify and support innovative solutions to some of the world's biggest environmental challenges. Five winners are selected each year, with each receiving 1 million pounds to scale up their projects.

PM declares war against drug menace

NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday became emotional while discussing the growing drug menace at a Union Council of Ministers meeting in Delhi, calling for a decisive nationwide effort to protect youngsters from substance abuse.

As per sources, the Prime Minister's voice choked with emotion as he stressed that the country's youngsters must be protected from falling into the trap of drugs at all costs. Drawing a parallel with the government's success in tackling Naxalism, he said that if the country could eliminate Naxalism, it could also eradicate the drug menace.

The remarks came during a nearly three-and-a-half-hour meeting of the Union Council of Ministers at Bharat Mandapam.

During the meeting, PM Modi called for a coordinated government effort to fight the drug trade, describing it as a



menace that was hollowing out society. He also cautioned ministers and officials against allowing Naxalism to make a comeback, stressing the need to sustain the gains made in tackling the insurgency.

The meeting also involved a review of ministers' performance and an assessment of the progress of various government schemes, sources said.

A key focus was evaluating the work done on goals and responsibilities assigned to ministers during the Chintan Shivir, or brainstorming session, held in September this year.

50 cr people out of poverty, PM stresses savings

One of the presentations highlighted India's progress in poverty alleviation, citing a World Bank report.

PM Modi said that while around 50 crore people had since moved out of poverty, the challenge now was to ensure they did not slip back into it.

He recalled his first address in the Central Hall of Parliament after the BJP-led government came to power in 2014, when he had described his government as one dedicated to the poor.

He underlined the importance of savings in preventing people from falling back into poverty.

Naxal menace, Jan Dhan

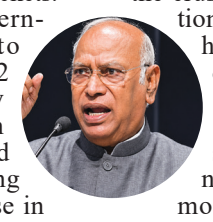
Another presentation focused on the government's efforts to make India free of Naxalism. Union Home Secretary Govind Mohan made the presentation, outlining the progress in tackling Left-Wing Extremism.

A third presentation covered the Jan Dhan Yojana and financial empowerment, highlighting the government's efforts to expand access to banking and financial services.

Progress will not be measured by length of speeches: Kharge

NEW DELHI

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge on Wednesday targeted the Modi government over rising prices and said the country's progress will not be measured by the length of his speeches but by the food on the common people's plates and the money in their pockets.



Though the government promised to bring down prices 12 years ago, it has only led to the common people getting less and their pockets getting empty due to the rise in prices of commodities, he said.

"Modi ji promised to bring down inflation, but today the situation is such that the common person's plate is getting smaller, their pockets are getting emptier, and making ends meet is becoming increasingly difficult," he said in a post in Hindi on X.

"Modi ji, the measure of the country's progress is not the length of your speeches, but the food on the common person's plate and the money left in their pocket. How much longer will people keep paying the price for your economic mismanagement?" he asked.

He said the 12 years of the Modi government have seen the crushing burden of inflation, and people are left helpless. "According to one survey, 61 per cent of households have seen their monthly spending on household necessities rise by more than 20 per cent from last year. 74 per cent of people are having to cut back on non-essential expenses."

The Congress on Wednesday demanded that PM Modi issue a white paper on inflation and clarify what concrete steps the government intends to take to rein in "skyrocketing prices" and provide relief to ordinary families.

QUICK READ

Kashmir's last identified active local militant killed in encounter

SRINAGAR

Security forces on Wednesday killed LeT commander Mohammad Lateef Bhat, whom the police had identified as the last active local militant in Kashmir, in an encounter in south Kashmir's Kulgam. His killing marks a significant development in the Valley where recruitment of local youth into militant groups has fallen sharply, although foreign terrorists continue to operate in the Union Territory. His killing marks a significant development in the Valley where recruitment of local youth into militant groups has fallen sharply, although foreign terrorists continue to operate in the Union Territory. Bhat (22) was killed in Zangalpora of Devsar after, as per the police, he refused repeated appeals to surrender.

2 Indian sailors rescued, 1 missing as cargo ship sinks near Bab el-Mandab

NAIROBI

Two Indian sailors who were rescued after the cargo ship Al-Fatah sank near the Bab el-Mandeb Strait are receiving assistance from the Indian High Commission in Kenya to ensure their safe return to India. Meanwhile, efforts are on to locate a third Indian crew member who is still missing, as per the mission. In a statement on X, the High Commission of India in Nairobi said it is "extending all possible assistance and coordinating with relevant stakeholders to facilitate the safe repatriation of two Indian sailors rescued from the cargo vessel Al-Fatah, which sank near the Bab el-Mandeb Strait." It confirmed that the third Indian sailor had not yet been found and that search operations were ongoing. It, however, did not disclose the date or circumstances of the sinking.

ALL PRAISE FOR ANGELS

Malta PM hails Indian healthcare professionals abroad

Keralam nurse wins PM Abela's effusive praise

THRISSUR

In a heartfelt gesture highlighting the dedication of Indian healthcare professionals abroad, Malta Prime Minister Robert Abela expressed deep gratitude to a Keralite nurse during his budget address in parliament.

Commending her commitment, the Prime Minister acknowledged the crucial role foreign workers play in the nation's growth and public welfare. "When my father and mother fell ill, and when my daughter needed care, it was a



foreign nurse who came to our aid. Her name is Geethu. Thank you, Geethu, we are indebted to your service," Abela remarked during his parliamentary speech.

The nurse, 35-year-old Geethu Louis, hails from Meloor near Chalakudy in Thrissur district. Prior to moving to Malta in 2018, she worked as an operation theatre nurse in Keralam. Her journey in the European nation took a pivotal turn during the height of the Covid-19 pandemic, when authorities sought healthcare workers willing to screen incoming passengers at the airport. While many hesitated, Geethu stepped forward to take on the task.

> When my father and mother fell ill, and when my daughter needed care, it was a foreign nurse who came to our aid. Her name is Geethu. Thank you, Geethu, we are indebted to your service.
>
> - **Robert Abela, Malta Prime Minister**

Recognising her efficiency and courage, officials eventually entrusted her with leading Covid-19 testing operations across the country. In this leadership role, she managed around 300 healthcare personnel across 32 hospital facilities, establishing herself as one of the most respected healthcare workers in Malta's government network.

Her exceptional reputation led to a personal assignment when former Malta President George Abela, the father of Prime Minister Robert Abela, suffered an injury in an accident. Geethu was requested to provide specialised care at the official residence, where she lived alongside the Abela family for nearly a year. Beyond caring for the former president, she also became a trusted pillar of support when the Prime Minister's wife and daughter faced health challenges.

By sharing Geethu's story during the budget session, Abela sought to emphasise the invaluable contribution of foreign professionals in driving Malta's health sector.

Quick Read

Sunny skies to continue across Karnataka

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Dry weather conditions are set to persist across most districts in Karnataka over the next three days. The Meteorological Department reports that coastal, North Interior, and South Interior regions will experience completely rain-free days with no major weather disruptions expected. Major urban centers, including Bengaluru, Mysuru, and Mangaluru, will continue to see clear skies without any immediate forecasts of precipitation. Officials note that overall rainfall activity remains weak throughout the state, though residents should monitor local updates for any unexpected regional shifts in temperature or atmospheric patterns during the week.

Bengaluru's smog spike threatens residents

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Heavy smog has choked parts of Bengaluru today, pushing the Air Quality Index to nearly 200 near major traffic junctions. Officials report that local pollution levels spiked significantly in busy commercial zones like Jayanagar and the Silk Board junction, where vulnerable residents face heavy health risks. Experts advise children and elderly citizens to stay indoors and wear protective masks when stepping outside. Similar poor air quality readings were also recorded across Ballari and Mysuru. Authorities urge the public to limit outdoor exercises until cleaner winds arrive later this week.

Fuel scam: Excess ethanol, tampered readings

Food Minister Rizwan Arshad wrote to Union Minister Hardeep Singh Puri, exposing excessive ethanol and faulty pumps.



Complaints of poor mileage and engine damage led the State to test fuel from 63 stations.

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

In a serious move to protect local vehicle owners, Food Minister Rizwan Arshad has officially written to Union Petroleum Minister Hardeep Singh Puri. The letter raises serious concerns over excessive ethanol blending in petrol and widespread measurement errors at fuel stations across the state.

WHAT THE CHECKS FOUND	
31.2 %	PEAK ETHANOL (LIMIT 20%)
768	OF 805 STATIONS NEED DISPENSER FIXES
101	CASES; ₹6.66 LAKH FINES

Recent trouble began when drivers flooded public offices with complaints. Many reported sudden drops in vehicle mileage, unexpected engine damage, and suspicions that dispensing pumps were giving them less fuel than they paid for. Acting on these grievances, state authorities launched a widespread investigation last September by collecting test samples from 63 fuel stations.

The investigation faced immediate roadblocks. Shockingly, oil company laboratories failed to report the ethanol levels in 42 of those samples. Refusing to drop the matter, the state government sent 14 samples to independent, NABL-accredited laboratories for accurate testing. The results confirmed that 11 samples contained ethanol levels soaring well past the legal 20 percent limit, with some reaching as high as 31.2 percent. Troublingly, this heavy overuse was even found in expensive premium petrol priced between ₹120 and ₹140 per litre.

At the same time, the Legal Metrology Department inspected 805 petrol stations and found serious technical issues. Dispensers at 768 stations needed urgent fixing, and inaccurate measurements appeared in 2,618 out of 3,071 nozzles. Authorities registered cases against 101 stations and collected ₹6.66 lakh in fines. Because dispensing machines typically lose accuracy within 11 months, the state rejected central proposals to extend inspection intervals to two years.

To resolve these issues, the state has placed five vital demands before the Centre. These include mandatory display of ethanol percentages at pumps and bills, making ethanol-free fuel available for older vehicles, setting up regular independent laboratory checks, and creating a compensation fund for damaged engines.

State's 5 key demands

1. **Labelling:** ethanol percentage shown at every pump, for every grade
2. **Bills:** the percentage printed on customer bills
3. **Choice:** E10 and ethanol-free petrol until all vehicles are E20-ready
4. **Audits:** routine checks at independent NABL-accredited laboratories
5. **Compensation:** a fund for owners of damaged engines

Justice restored for doctors serving in rural areas

CH NEWS, BENGALURU



A doctor examines a patient.

The High Court struck down a government order cutting rural doctors' monthly pay, restoring salaries to Rs. 75,000 and Rs. 62,666.

In a major relief for young medical professionals, the High Court has officially struck down a government order that cut the monthly pay of doctors doing mandatory service in rural areas.

The case involves recent graduates who finished their MBBS studies under the government quota in 2024 and 2025. Following their graduation, these young doctors were sent to work for one year in state government hospitals located across rural regions. Their mandatory posting falls under two main initiatives: the National Health Mission and the State Health and Family Welfare Services schemes.

Earlier, the state government had set fair monthly wages for these hard-working doctors. However, officials later issued a sudden revised notification that lowered their earnings. Doctors working under the Health and Family Welfare scheme saw their pay drop from Rs. 62,666 down to Rs. 60,000 per month. Meanwhile, those serving under the National Health Mission experienced a drop from Rs. 75,000 down to Rs. 70,000.

Unhappy with the pay cut, a group of 38 junior doctors, including Dr. Shashikumar, who serves at a taluk hospital in Uttara Kannada, decided to fight back. They filed a legal petition arguing that reducing their promised salaries overnight was unfair and unlawful. They asked the court to restore their original pay and clear all pending salary dues.

Justice Sunil Dutt Yadav heard the arguments presented by advocate Abhiraj B. Chengati on behalf of the petitioners. After reviewing the case, the bench agreed with the doctors and set aside the government's revised pay-cut order.

The court ordered the state government to honor the original pay scale. Doctors posted under the National Health Mission will now receive Rs. 75,000 every month. Those working under the Health and Family Welfare scheme will get Rs. 62,666 monthly.

This ruling brings great relief to medical graduates who spend long hours treating patients in remote villages. Many hope this decision will ensure fair treatment for future doctors serving rural communities.

Khandre launches 'Bhu Guarantee' for rural properties

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

In a major push to secure property rights for millions of villagers, Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Minister Eshwar Khandre has officially launched the ambitious 'Bhu Guarantee' E-Swathu campaign from his office at Vikasa Soudha.



At the launch of the 'Bhu Guarantee' E-Swathu campaign.

Calling it the sixth core guarantee following the ruling party's previous welfare promises, the new initiative aims to resolve decades of bureaucratic delays in issuing electronic property documents. Government data indicates that about 15 million rural properties exist across the state, with digital property records still pending for nearly ten million parcels. To tackle this massive backlog, authorities have set a strict target to issue official E-Swathu certificates to 800,000 dispute-free village properties by the end of this year, scaling up coverage to eight million parcels by late 2027.

The state government stepped in after noticing that 61% of the population living in rural areas faced severe hurdles obtaining proper legal titles due to outdated rules. A specialized high-level committee, led by the Panchayat Raj department secretary, recommended key amendments to simplify the framework. Under the newly revised regulations, houses built in traditional village settlement areas will receive digital records smoothly. For families whose historical records were lost to floods, heavy rains, or termite damage, authorities will accept older electricity bills dated before April 7th of last year, alongside a physical site inspection report, subject to a 21 day public objection window.

Scale of rural records

- **15 million** rural properties in the state
- **10 million** still without digital records
- **800,000** certificates targeted this year
- **8 million** parcels by late 2027

Special relaxations have also been introduced for unique regional dwellings. Properties in the Malenadu region measuring up to 4,000 square feet including traditional kanamane and manedala structures can now secure digital papers even if built on agricultural land without formal title deeds. Furthermore, the government plans to roll out advanced E-Swathu 3.0 software integrated directly with revenue databases to prevent illegal registrations on government or reserve lands. To iron out ongoing land measurement bottlenecks, the administration is preparing a cabinet proposal to set up a dedicated internal survey division equipped with high-precision GPS rovers.

Citizens facing any procedural hurdles can reach out directly to the dedicated official helpline at 9483476000. Minister Khandre has strictly instructed all department staff to handle applications with utmost transparency and efficiency.

State explores LKG and UKG classes in every government school

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Tired of paying heavy fees at private institutions, parents across Karnataka are looking at public options. Because of this massive rush, the Department of Education has started a special survey to introduce LKG and UKG classes in every government school across the state.



Pre-primary classes already run in about 6,000 to 7,000 government schools.

DID YOU KNOW?

A pilot backed by the Kalyana Karnataka Development Fund enrolled 48,000 children in pre-primary classes within just 42 days.

For years, high costs made quality early education a luxury for poor and middle-class families. Now, families want reliable public choices for their toddlers. In many rural areas, local school committees and caring teachers already started pre-primary sections on their own due to huge public demand. The state government now wants to officially support, organize, and expand these grassroots efforts.

The new plan also focuses on building better teamwork between local Anganwadis and primary schools. This smart model has already worked wonders in the Kalyana Karnataka region. Supported by special regional development funds, nearly 48,000 children signed up for pre-primary classes in just 42 days. Seeing such wonderful success, education officials want to copy this winning strategy statewide.

Bringing play-school learning into government institutions will help tiny tots adjust smoothly before entering regular primary grades. It gives kids a fair start in life without draining their parents' wallets. Authorities will use the upcoming survey data to identify schools with the highest demand, ensuring that funds and resources go directly where they are needed most.

This major step promises to ease financial stress for struggling parents while boosting student attendance from a very young age. By strengthening public education right from the foundation, the state hopes to give every child equal learning opportunities, no matter their family background. Officials expect the expansion rollout to move quickly once the survey wraps up, bringing joy to families who want affordable schooling right in their neighborhoods.

Jayadeva Hospital Performs South India's First MitraClip Procedure

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Doctors at the Sri Jayadeva Institute of Cardiovascular Sciences and Research successfully saved an 80-year-old woman's life using the advanced MitraClip technique. This marks the first successful MitraClip implantation in a government autonomous hospital in South India.



The patient, Venkatalakshmamma, suffered from severe breathlessness due to acute mitral valve leakage. Because she had undergone open-heart surgery ten years ago, another invasive operation posed extreme risks. A private hospital had estimated her treatment cost at ₹35 to ₹40 lakh. Unable to afford the steep expense, her family admitted her to Jayadeva Hospital.

Under Director Dr. B. Dinesh's guidance, a specialist team—Dr. Puneeth Verma, Dr. L. Sridhar, Dr. Nataraj Shetty, Dr. Satish, and Dr. K.H. Srinivas—implanted the MitraClip via a thigh blood vessel catheter without opening her chest. Her condition improved rapidly, and she was discharged within 48 hours.

Dr. Dinesh noted that the institute absorbed all medical expenses, requiring the family to pay only the ₹22 lakh device cost. He reaffirmed Jayadeva Hospital's commitment to bringing affordable, world-class cardiac care to the public.

STATE AVIATION STRATEGY

New civil aviation policy set for cabinet approval

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Karnataka Infrastructure Development Minister M.B. Patil has announced that a comprehensive state Civil Aviation Policy will officially secure cabinet approval during the upcoming ministerial meeting, aiming to ensure that multi-crore airports across the region never remain idle.

Addressing the media in Bengaluru, Minister Patil strongly rejected allegations that the state administration bears responsibility for the suspension of flight operations at Shivamogga Airport. Instead, he blamed structural flaws within the central government's regional connectivity scheme, 'UDAN'. He urged local Member of Parliament B.Y. Raghavendra to recognize these ground realities rather than assigning misplaced blame.

Patil proposed that the central government extend financial support under the UDAN scheme from three years to five years. Under this proposal, the Karnataka government would willingly cover half of the operational expenses for another five years. He called on Raghavendra to press Prime Minister Modi and Union Civil Aviation Minister Rammohan Naidu for this extension.

To capitalize on soaring global demand for Maintenance, Repair, and Overhaul services, the upcoming aviation policy prioritizes domestic aircraft manufacturing and the localized supply chain. Karnataka already hosts major aerospace players like Collins, Safran, and Bellatrix. To attract further investment ahead of the Global Investors' Meet, the government plans high-level roadshows in nations like France.

Despite intense competition, Karnataka continues securing global heavyweights like Lam Research and Applied Materials. Patil concluded by demanding that the central government release urgent drought relief funds without political bias, supporting citizens through difficult times.



The State's Civil Aviation Policy is set to go before the cabinet.



Shivamogga: flights at its airport are suspended.

CH Observer

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From illegal garbage dumps right outside the JD(S) party office in Seshadripuram to unhygienic waste and construction debris blocking footpaths near Kumarapark Children's Park and Central Street, local residents and commuters are facing severe civic neglect. These recurring waste piles and blocked walkways in prime residential and commercial zones have transformed neighborhood streets into hazardous, unhygienic eyesores demanding urgent municipal intervention.

+91 80730 57594



Garbage dumped right in front of the JD(S) party office (JP Bhavan) on Platform Road, V.V. Giri Colony, Seshadripuram. It was unexpected to see such garbage dumped right in front of the party office gate.



Garbage dumped right infront of foot path that is being rebuilt. It is not as issue that has been happening recently. Cleanup efforts have failed in this particular spot. Being located right next to Kumarapark Childrens park right next to Chetty's Corner on serpentine road, KumaraPark west.



Garbage and construction debris being dumped and cars blocking it. Being in a complete residential are with many children in that locality such garbage is very unhygenic. Located on Central Street, Kumarapark West, right infront of Giridhar and company Advocates office.

West Corporation launches stray dog awareness film

Bengaluru West City Corporation launched a documentary on animal welfare, highlighting sterilization, vaccination, and rabies prevention efforts.

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

In a maiden initiative within the Greater Bengaluru Authority jurisdiction, the Bengaluru West City Corporation has released a specialized fifteen-minute awareness documentary to educate residents and officials on animal welfare and rabies prevention programs.



At the launch of the awareness documentary.

In numbers

69,341 stray dogs in the two zones

5,270 sterilization surgeries this year

13,519 rabies vaccinations

The nine-chapter documentary was jointly launched by Corporation Commissioner Shilpa Nag, participating virtually, and Additional Commissioner for Development Kavitha Rajaram during a high-level monitoring committee meeting. Officials also recalled the corporation's previous promotional short film, 'Bhairuva', which was designed to encourage public participation in stray dog adoption.

Addressing the gathering, Kavitha Rajaram emphasized that urban spaces must remain safe for both humans and animals. She noted that animal control initiatives are being strictly executed under Supreme Court guidelines to prevent human-animal conflicts, protect the public from dog bites, and curb the spread of rabies.

Reviewing operational metrics, Animal Husbandry Department head Dr. Venkatesh K.M. reported that the jurisdiction currently houses an estimated 69,341 stray dogs across two municipal zones. Sterilization and vaccination efforts are supported by two primary Animal Birth Control centers located in Sumanahalli and Chamarajpet, featuring a combined surgical capacity of 35 dogs per day. So far this year, the department has successfully completed 5,270 sterilization surgeries and administered 13,519 rabies vaccinations.

NEXT STEPS

- Microchips for sterilized dogs
- Model ward operations
- Mobile veterinary clinics
- A stray dog shelter in Sumanahalli

Furthermore, the corporation is advancing several new welfare measures ahead of January 2027, including comprehensive microchipping for sterilized dogs, model ward operations, mobile veterinary clinics, and the construction of a dedicated stray dog shelter in Sumanahalli.

Citizens seeking assistance or reporting rabies concerns can utilize the corporation's dedicated helplines at 1533, 9480685708, or the specialized rabies complaint line at 6364893322.

GBA announces 2027 voter list revision

The Greater Bengaluru Authority announced the Special Summary Revision schedule for 2027 voter rolls, urging eligible residents to verify and update registration details.

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

In accordance with official directives issued by the Election Commission of India, the Greater Bengaluru Authority has formally announced the comprehensive schedule for the Special Summary Revision of Electoral Rolls for 2027, setting January 1, 2027, as the qualifying date.

The special administrative revision process encompasses crucial activities designed to update and refine voter databases, including the rationalization and rearrangement of polling stations, the publication of updated draft rolls, and the systematic processing of public claims and objections.

According to the official notification, the rollout timeline begins with the rationalization and rearrangement of polling stations, which must be completed by November 23, 2026. Following this preparatory phase, the integrated draft electoral roll will be officially published on December 1, 2026. Citizens will then have a dedicated one-month window, running from December 1 through December 31, 2026, to file claims, submit objections, or request necessary corrections. Election authorities will subsequently review and dispose of all submitted claims by January 14, 2027, culminating in the official final publication of the updated electoral roll on January 20, 2027.

The Assistant Commissioner for Elections under the Greater Bengaluru Authority has strongly urged all eligible residents to proactively verify their names and registration details on the electoral rolls. Citizens wishing to include their names, update personal information, or lodge valid objections are encouraged to submit the appropriate applications within the designated statutory period.

This routine yet essential democratic exercise ensures that voter lists remain accurate, up-to-date, and fully reflective of the city's shifting population demographics ahead of future electoral engagements across the metropolitan region.

Revision deadlines & schedule

- Polling Station Rationalization: By November 23, 2026.
- Draft Roll Publication: Dec 1, 2026.
- Filing Claims & Objections: December 1 to December 31, 2026.
- Disposal of Claims: By January 14, 2027.
- Final Roll Publication: January 20, 2027.

North Corporation launches weekly phone in

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

In a proactive move to bridge the gap between municipal administration and urban residents, the Bengaluru North City Corporation has introduced a weekly Phone-In Programme designed to let citizens voice their civic grievances directly to top officials.

Announced by North City Corporation Commissioner Pommala Sunil Kumar, the inaugural interactive session is scheduled for Friday, November twentieth, 2026, running from seven a.m. to nine a.m. During this dedicated two-hour window, residents living within the corporation's jurisdiction can connect directly with the Commissioner to report a wide array of local infrastructure and sanitation challenges.

The scope of grievances eligible for direct reporting covers numerous everyday civic pain points, including road potholes and urgent repair work, maintenance and restoration of streetlights, efficient door-to-door garbage collection, removal of hazardous tree branches, and robust mosquito control measures. Furthermore, citizens can raise concerns regarding stray dog management, the upkeep of public parks, the removal of unauthorized banners and posters, footpath encroachment clearances, and administrative bottlenecks concerning e-Khata property documents. To ensure accountability and transparent tracking, all complaints received during the Friday phone-in will be formally logged onto the "Sahaaya 2.0" digital portal and instantly routed to the relevant departmental heads. Citizens will receive automated SMS updates containing their registered complaint reference numbers and the contact details of the officers assigned to resolve their issues.

Residents unable to join the live telephone session can still log complaints through the Sahaaya 2.0 mobile application or reach out directly to the corporation's control rooms. Dedicated assistance is available via mobile and WhatsApp at 9480685705, or through landlines at 080-22975936 and 080-23636671. Municipal authorities encourage urban communities to utilize these channels actively to accelerate local developmental and maintenance works.

Bengaluru South conducts Census 2027 training

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

To ensure the upcoming decennial population count proceeds smoothly without technical discrepancies, the Bengaluru South City Corporation recently organized a specialized training workshop for Charge Officers and Technical Assistants.

The interactive session, spearheaded by Additional Commissioner Rachappa alongside Deputy Commissioner Gagana, focused heavily on preparing field officials for the second phase of Census-2027. The curriculum provided comprehensive guidance on conducting precise fieldwork, executing accurate house-listing procedures, and maintaining high data integrity throughout the population enumeration process.

A major focus of the workshop centered on digital tools and technological platforms. Officials received hands-on training and live demonstrations regarding the 'HLB (House Listing Block) Review Module' and the CMMS (Census Management and Monitoring System) portal. Instructors demonstrated how to accurately demarcate census blocks, perform geo-tagging, and align ward boundaries. Technical guidelines were also issued to help staff resolve overlapping boundaries between census blocks and identify previously unmapped habitations so they can be seamlessly integrated into adjacent enumeration zones.



At the Census 2027 training workshop.

WHAT THE TRAINING COVERED

HLB REVIEW MODULE
Review of the House Listing Blocks

CMMS PORTAL
Census Management and Monitoring System

IN THE FIELD
Block demarcation, geo-tagging and ward boundaries

SLUMS
Recorded apart from non-slum areas

Furthermore, municipal authorities instructed personnel to carefully categorize and record slum regions separately from non-slum areas, while properly identifying specialized or restricted jurisdictions according to statutory rules.

Emphasizing that enumerators and supervisors form the backbone of the entire census operation, Additional Commissioner Rachappa urged all participating officials to apply the digital training effectively. He directed teams to complete every stage of the census work diligently within the stipulated timeframe, ensuring a completely error-free and comprehensive administrative rollout across the southern zone.

BCCC cracks down on sanitation violations

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Intensifying enforcement measures across core urban neighborhoods, the Bengaluru Central City Corporation has launched a comprehensive special operation targeting sanitation rule violations, illegal waste dumping, single-use plastic sales, and footpath encroachments. Led by Corporation Commissioner Jagadish G., sanitation squads and municipal marshals successfully penalized multiple commercial establishments and public offenders, recovering a total of ₹36,700 in fines.

The most severe penalty was levied in the Cottonpet area under the Gandhinagar division, where inspectors discovered staff from a local medical shop blatantly dumping commercial waste onto the public roadside. Authorities swiftly tracked the violation and imposed a hefty fine of ₹20,000 on the owner, alongside issuing strict warnings regarding mandatory waste disposal protocols.

Additional enforcement drives were conducted across Shivajinagar and Vasanthnagar. During night patrols near Russell Market within the Bharathinagar ward, marshal teams fined three separate commercial vendors ₹5,700 for mixing waste, littering, and stocking five kilograms of banned single-use plastic items, which were promptly confiscated. Meanwhile, in Vasanthnagar, popular nightspot 'Watson's Bar' was hit with a ₹5,000 fine after inspections revealed unauthorized footpath encroachments and a complete failure to segregate wet and dry waste bins.

Further sweep operations targeted public littering hotspots, including Markham Road in the Shanthalanagar ward where offenders were fined ₹5,000, and the Okalipuram area, where a ₹1,000 penalty was enforced.

Commissioner Jagadish G. emphasized that maintaining civic hygiene is a shared community responsibility. He warned that continuous patrolling and surprise inspections will remain active across all divisions, with strict legal action and escalating fines awaiting commercial establishments or individuals who flout sanitation and footpath regulations.

COMMISSIONER SECURES DUES

UB City clears ₹2.65 crore tax arrears

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Stepping up aggressive revenue recovery drives against outstanding municipal dues, the Bengaluru Central City Corporation has secured a massive property tax payment of over ₹2.65 crore from properties located within the prominent UB City complex.

The payment

Paid in one Demand Draft

₹2,65,52,991

UB City properties covered by the payment

21

Following strict directives issued by Corporation Commissioner Jagadish G. during a recent high-level review meeting with revenue officials, municipal teams intensified efforts to identify major tax defaulters and issue formal demand notices across all zones. Prompted by these rigorous recovery measures, the Official Liquidator of the High Court of Karnataka acting on behalf of M/s United Breweries (Holdings) Limited in liquidation stepped forward to clear long-standing dues.



The Demand Draft is handed over at the PUB Building.

A formal Demand Draft amounting to exactly ₹2,65,52,991 was handed over directly to Commissioner Jagadish G. at his office in the PUB Building on M.G. Road. The substantial payment covers property tax arrears for 21 distinct assets situated within the UB City complex on Vittal Mallya Road, falling under the administrative jurisdiction of the Shantinagar sub-division's Assistant Revenue Officer. Key municipal figures, including Additional Commissioner (Revenue) Lakmamma and Joint Commissioner Hemant Sharan, were present during the formal handover.

Drawing attention to this successful high-value recovery, Commissioner Jagadish G. issued a stern warning to all remaining commercial and residential property owners across the corporation's jurisdiction with overdue tax liabilities. He urged citizens and corporate entities to clear their pending dues immediately through official channels to avoid strict legal penalties.

Municipal authorities confirmed that field inspections and tracking mechanisms will continue unabated. Properties failing to settle outstanding arrears within the stipulated deadlines will face severe punitive actions, including asset attachment and further statutory enforcement under municipal regulations, as the corporation moves to strengthen its financial health.

Who paid

The High Court of Karnataka's Official Liquidator, for United Breweries (Holdings) Ltd, in liquidation, handed over the Demand Draft.

Quick Read

Ragpicker set on fire in territorial dispute

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

A young scrap collector named Muhammad suffered severe burn injuries after unidentified attackers tied his limbs and set him on fire in the Girinagar police station limits. Local residents spotted the horrific assault and immediately alerted local authorities, who rescued the victim and rushed him to Victoria Hospital for emergency medical care. Preliminary police investigations suggest the brutal attack may stem from a territorial dispute over scrap collection zones among local workers. Law enforcement officers have officially registered a criminal case and are currently actively investigating the incident.

Thief exploits accident rescue to steal bag

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

A brazen thief stole a valuable laptop bag from an injured scooter rider by pretending to help her. The victim, Padmavathi, fell from her two-wheeler after hitting a waterlogged pothole near the Hennur Ring Road underpass. As Good Samaritans rushed forward to lift her and right the vehicle, the disguised miscreant snatched the bag containing a laptop and electronics worth about ₹94,000 right before everyone's eyes. The Banaswadi police have registered a formal case under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita and launched a manhunt to trace the suspect.

Patil calls HDK's Honda claims false

Minister M.B. Patil dismissed H.D. Kumaraswamy's claims of corporate exits, affirming Honda's ongoing expansion in Karnataka.

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Large and Medium Industries Minister M.B. Patil has strongly condemned Union Heavy Industries Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy's recent allegations, dismissing claims that prominent manufacturing companies are scaling back operations or planning to exit Karnataka due to state policy failures.

Addressing reporters, Patil labeled the claims regarding a breakdown in relations with major investors, specifically pointing to automobile giant Honda, as entirely false and misleading. He clarified that the company has expressed deep satisfaction with the state's business ecosystem. The state government has successfully allocated 135 acres of land to support their industrial footprint, and the automaker is currently pushing forward with plans to expand production lines, including electric vehicle operations at its Narasapura campus. Patil emphasized that any internal commercial or market challenges firms face regarding EV transition timelines cannot be arbitrarily pinned on the state administration.


H.D. Kumaraswamy (left) and M.B. Patil.

The minister criticized the Union Minister for making unverified assertions without proper ground information, noting that corporate representatives had confirmed they never held meetings with Kumaraswamy concerning any relocation. Patil argued that individuals holding responsible federal positions should actively collaborate with state machinery to bolster regional investments instead of circulating narratives that risk damaging Karnataka's premier industrial reputation.

Furthermore, Patil addressed ongoing debates surrounding competitive incentive structures offered by various states. He noted that while Karnataka provides robust and sustainable financial incentives such as substantial support packages extended to global corporations like Foxconn, Lam Research, and Applied Materials, matching unviable demands that exceed total capital investments is neither fiscally prudent nor feasible. He urged federal leaders to foster a cooperative framework to safeguard regional economic growth and prevent the unnecessary politicization of industrial development.

Impractical demands unfeasible

Patil stressed that while the state offers competitive incentives like a 35% to 40% package (previously extended to Foxconn), matching impractical demands or competing with massive ₹50,000 crore central grants to rival states is unfeasible.

REBUTTAL POINTS

Honda Expansion: The state government has successfully allocated 135 acres of land to Honda, which is actively expanding its manufacturing footprint locally.

EV Sales Reality: Patil noted that any internal hurdles Honda faces regarding Electric Vehicle (EV) sales stem from market factors, not state government policies.

Unfounded Claims: Terming Kumaraswamy's allegations irresponsible, Patil warned that misinformed statements could harm Karnataka's investor-friendly reputation and divert projects elsewhere.

State cuts out-of-pocket medical costs

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Karnataka has emerged as a national leader in mitigating the direct financial strain of medical expenses on households, according to the 'Health Accounts Estimates for India 2023-24' released by the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

Karnataka health spending, 2023-24

TOTAL	GOVERNMENT	OUT OF POCKET
₹52,593 cr	₹16,631 cr	₹15,014 cr
OUT-OF-POCKET SHARE	**NATIONAL SHARE**	**PER CAPITA**
28.5%	42.7%	₹7,734

The comprehensive report reveals that out-of-pocket expenditure, the costs borne directly by individuals for healthcare services, stands at 28.5% of total health spending in the state. This figure is substantially lower than the national average of 42.7%, reflecting the robust impact of public health schemes and government-backed hospital networks in shielding families from catastrophic medical debt during specialized treatments and hospitalizations.

During the 2023-24 fiscal year, Karnataka's total health expenditure reached ₹52,593 crore, representing about 2% of the Gross State Domestic Product. Government health expenditure accounted for ₹16,631 crore, or roughly 31.6% of the total, while household out-of-pocket spending hovered around ₹15,014 crore.

Per capita health expenditure in the state stood at ₹7,734, comfortably outpacing the national average of ₹6,801. Public health financing heavily relied on flagship state initiatives, with the 'Ayushman Bharat - Arogya Karnataka' scheme driving utilization at ₹1,192 crore, contrasted with ₹31 crore channeled through the 'Yeshasvini' health insurance scheme.

When benchmarked against neighboring and major states, Karnataka's out-of-pocket share of 28.5% demonstrates superior financial protection. Comparable figures run significantly higher elsewhere: Andhra Pradesh records 53.5%, Kerala reaches 65.2%, Telangana stands at 37.9%, West Bengal registers 63%, and Punjab logs 60.07%.

Despite these commendable strides, experts note that household contributions through direct payments remain notable, signaling a continued need to expand public health infrastructure and deepen insurance coverage to ensure absolute medical equity across urban and rural populations alike.

ASHA workers protest enters second day


ASHA workers at the strike in Freedom Park, Bengaluru.

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The indefinite day-and-night strike staged by thousands of Accredited Social Health Activists at Freedom Park has entered its second day, causing massive traffic disruptions across central Bengaluru.

Protesting workers have poured in from every corner of Karnataka, demanding a guaranteed monthly honorarium of ₹15,000 and a retirement lump-sum payment of ₹5 lakh. Because the grounds inside Freedom Park quickly became too crowded to hold the surging crowds, demonstrators spilled over onto adjacent thoroughfares like Kalidasa Road and Seshadri Road. In response, local traffic police have installed heavy barricades and closed key routes as a precautionary safety measure.

The agitators remain entirely firm on their stance, declaring that they will not call off the massive demonstration until state authorities provide official written assurances addressing their core grievances.

Thousands of ASHA workers paralyzed central Bengaluru during an indefinite Freedom Park strike, demanding higher honorariums, retirement payouts, and better welfare protections.

Currently, Karnataka's ASHA workers receive a total monthly honorarium of ₹8,000, split between ₹5,000 from the state government and ₹3,000 from central funds. Protesters point out that neighboring and other states offer significantly higher compensation, such as ₹15,000 in Haryana, ₹12,000 in Kerala, ₹11,250 in West Bengal, and ₹10,000 in Andhra Pradesh.

Alongside better monthly pay and retirement benefits, the workers have listed several critical demands. These include relief from heavy digital reporting pressure linked to the 'Samasta' mobile application, immediate clearance of pending financial incentives from the ASHA fund, and the reinstatement of ASHA Facilitators with proper back-pay. They also seek special ₹5,000 financial incentives for completing NIOS training modules, dedicated medical leave support during severe illnesses, and formal recognition of their grassroots healthcare contributions.

Monthly ASHA honorarium (₹)

Haryana	15,000
Kerala	12,000
West Bengal	11,250
Andhra	10,000
Karnataka	8,000

Figures cited by the protesters

Union leaders have criticized the administration for ignoring their prolonged hardships, emphasizing that ASHA personnel form the backbone of rural healthcare delivery across the state. As the sit-in continues, traffic remains heavily congested around the city center while authorities attempt to initiate formal dialogue with the protesting groups.

Centre neglecting Karnataka drought relief: Minister Lad

CH NEWS, BENGALURU



Karnataka Labour and Skill Development Minister Santosh Lad has strongly criticized the Central government for its prolonged delay in releasing critical drought relief funds to the state, raising serious questions about political bias in disaster management assistance.

Speaking to reporters, Lad emphasized that providing financial aid during severe natural calamities is a fundamental responsibility of the Union government, regardless of which political party holds power in a particular state. Pointing to past administrative hurdles, he noted that even when the Bharatiya Janata Party was previously in power in Karnataka, the state received little to no financial backing from the Centre during crisis periods. He expressed deep skepticism over whether funds will be released now that the Congress party governs the state, highlighting a persistent pattern of neglect.

Recalling previous legal battles, Lad reminded the public that when former Chief Minister Siddaramaiah previously led the administration, the state government had to aggressively assert its constitutional rights by approaching the Supreme Court just to secure rightful drought compensation. He remarked that the Centre ought to have felt deep institutional embarrassment over forcing a state into judicial intervention for disaster relief.

Providing an update on ongoing diplomatic and administrative efforts, Lad mentioned that Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar is currently engaged in high-level discussions with Prime Minister Narendra Modi to resolve the financial standoff, with the state administration eagerly awaiting a positive and timely outcome.

Shifting focus to unrelated political chatter, Lad also dismissed viral social media debates surrounding controversial remarks made about Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's family, writing off such online discussions as absurd and entirely meaningless distractions from pressing governance issues.

RGUHS to host Kannada medical literature meet


The conference brochure being released.

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

In a historic step toward bridging regional languages with advanced medical science, the Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences is holding the second Kannada Comprehensive Medical Literature Conference at the Bangalore Medical College and Research Institute.

Scheduled for November 20 and 21, the landmark two-day event aims to enrich native medical literature and make complex healthcare concepts easily accessible to the general public. According to University Vice-Chancellor Dr. Bhagavan B.C., the initiative marks a significant milestone in RGUHS's three-decade journey, seeking to strengthen the role of Kannada in public health awareness and professional education.

The grand inauguration will be led by Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar, alongside Medical Education Minister Dr. Sharanaprakash R. Patil, Health Minister U.T. Khader, and renowned litterateur Dr. Baraguru Ramachandrappa. The valedictory ceremony will feature prominent figures including Alva's Education Foundation Chairman Dr. M. Mohan Alva and senior writer Nadoja Dr. Hampana, alongside state officials.

A core focus of the conference involves exploring the feasibility of imparting medical education and conducting examinations in Kannada, alongside developing localized medical terminologies and digital study resources. Organizers noted that similar regional language initiatives in engineering and civil service examinations have proven successful, prompting academic leaders to evaluate how native-language instruction can support students wishing to serve local communities.

Commuters, residents back BDA's traffic plan for Hebbal-Mekhri corridor

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Daily commuters and local residents are expressing widespread approval for the Bangalore Development Authority's (BDA) commuter-first strategy regarding the ongoing 18-month Mekhri–Hebbal Integrated Corridor project, which aims to permanently relieve one of the city's most congested arterial routes without grinding traffic to a complete halt.

For professionals like 33-year-old Akshay Rao, who commutes daily between Jayanagar and the technology parks near Kempegowda International Airport, the initial apprehension regarding major construction disruptions has largely subsided. Thanks to a meticulous traffic management strategy coordinated closely with the Bengaluru Traffic Police and the Greater Bengaluru Authority, critical transit arteries such as Ballari Road and the vital Hebbal Flyover have been kept fully operational throughout the construction phase. Instead of complete road shutdowns, the BDA has implemented phased lane restrictions, strategic diversions, and enhanced signage to maintain a steady, regulated flow of vehicles.

Local neighbourhood residents are also welcoming the long-term benefits of the infrastructure overhaul. Prathiba Jayaram, a Ganganagar homemaker, noted that improved connectivity across the Hebbal–Mekhri stretch will significantly ease everyday travel for families journeying toward the city center or heading north toward the airport.



Hebbal: the corridor runs to Mekhri Circle

Project blueprints detail an ambitious design featuring a 1.74-km, four-lane elevated corridor to streamline through-traffic, a completely redesigned rotary junction at Mekhri Circle to optimize cross-movement, and dedicated entry-exit ramps. BDA Chairman N.A. Haris emphasized that continuous monitoring and proactive adjustments to alternative routes are helping minimize daily bottlenecks.

To assist motorists during peak commuting hours, civic authorities have outlined key alternative routes. Travellers heading to the airport from the city centre are advised to utilize Old High Grounds Junction, Kalpana Junction, Canteen Road, Cantonment Railway Station, and Tannery Road, while commuters from Yeshwanthpur can navigate via Mathikere Road and BEL Circle. Meanwhile, motorists heading toward the city centre can bypass congestion via Nagawara Junction, Bamboo Bazaar, and Queen's Road, or through the Hebbal Outer Ring Road and Kuvempu Circle. Residents travelling to Ganganagar, Anand Nagar, R.T. Nagar, and Jayamahal are encouraged to use the service road fronting Baptist Hospital, Anand Nagar Cross, and CBI Junction.

As the 18-month project advances, continued cooperation between road users and civic agencies will remain crucial to ensuring that Bengaluru's vital northern corridor is successfully modernized without bringing the city's daily movement to a standstill.

2007 LAND PROBE

Retired IAS officers depose in Kumaraswamy land case

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

More than a decade after stepping down from active civil service, two former senior bureaucrats have formally deposed before a special court in Bengaluru in connection with a long-standing corruption case involving Union Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy.


H.D. Kumaraswamy.

Retired IAS officers Jothi Ramalingam (74) and Shameem Bhanu (75), both former additional chief secretaries of Karnataka, appeared before the special court for elected representatives to give their testimonies. Their depositions center on a controversial administrative decision made back in 2007 during the JD(S)-BJP coalition government led by Kumaraswamy, which allegedly approved the illegal release of 2.24 acres of government-acquired land to private individuals.

The high-profile legal battle originates from a private complaint filed by M. Mahadevaswamy. The petitioner alleges that the disputed land denotification caused an estimated financial loss ranging from ₹60 crore to ₹80 crore to the state exchequer. Union Minister Kumaraswamy is named as one of 19 total co-accused in the sprawling corruption proceedings.

During the court session, the retired bureaucrats faced detailed questioning regarding bureaucratic file movements, cabinet decisions, and the procedural approvals granted during their tenure. Legal experts note that testimonies from senior retired civil servants often carry significant weight in establishing the administrative chain of command and ministerial involvement in historical policy decisions.

As the court proceedings slowly advance through detailed witness examinations and evidence verification, the case continues to draw intense political scrutiny given Kumaraswamy's current high-profile role in national politics. The special court is expected to schedule further hearings to examine additional witnesses linked to the 2007 land transfer files.

Quick Read

Minister orders action against men harassing elephant

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Forest, Ecology and Environment Minister Ramalinga Reddy has ordered strict legal action against two persons accused of throwing stones at an elephant in the Nagarahole forest range.The minister took serious note of a viral social media video showing two men arriving on a motorcycle (KA 09 HY 0257) and allegedly throwing stones at an elephant standing beside the road.Terming the incident an act of cruelty towards wildlife, Reddy directed the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (HoFF) to trace the motorcycle and identify those involved. He also ordered legal action under the Wildlife (Protection) Act.

Applications invited for staff nurse post in Chikkaballapura

CH NEWS, CHIKKABALLAPURA

Applications have been invited for the post of Staff Nurse at the Morarji Desai Model Residential School for Backward Classes in Kolumenahalli, Chikkaballapura, for the academic year 2026-27.The school has announced one vacancy, which will be filled on an outsourcing basis. Candidates with a General Nursing and Midwifery (GNM) qualification are eligible to apply.Interested candidates must submit their applications to the school principal by 5.30 pm on November 25.For further details, candidates can contact the school principal at 9686907161, according to the official announcement.

Public service campaign scheduled in Kanakagiri on Nov 21

CH NEWS, KOPPAL

A taluk-level 'Praja Seva Andolana' (Public Service Campaign) will be held on November 21 at the APMC premises in Kanakagiri from 10 am to 2.30 pm to address public grievances.The meeting will be led by the District In-charge Minister and local MLA, with senior district officials, including the DeputyCommissioner, Zilla Panchayat CEO, Superintendent of Police and Deputy Conservator of Forests (Wildlife), overseeing the proceedings. All district officials must attend with details of government schemes. Key departments have also been instructed to set up exhibition stalls. Officials failing to attend or provide complete information may face disciplinary action.

Elephant relocation aims to end human-wildlife conflict

Government may relocate elephants to Bhadra, Sathyamangalam, Bandipur, Nagarahole, Wayanad and BRT, based on migration, food, water and village safety.

CH NEWS, HASSAN

Excise Minister and Hassan District In-charge Minister K.M. Shivalinge Gowda has assured farmers in Chikkamagaluru and Shivamogga districts that the ongoing operation to capture and relocate wild elephants from Alur in Hassan district will not shift the human-elephant conflict to other regions.

In a statement, he said the operation aimed to find a permanent solution to the growing conflict between humans and elephants. He pointed out that 10 wild elephants had been creating problems in the Alur region and that two people had lost their lives within a few days. The operation was launched to prevent further casualties and ensure public safety.

The government is considering relocating the elephants to suitable forest areas, including Bhadra, Sathyamangalam, Bandipur, Nagarahole, Wayanad and Biligiriranganabetta. The selection will depend on the elephants' migration routes, herd behaviour, availability of food and water, forest capacity and the safety of nearby villages.



The government is weighing six forest areas, from Bhadra to BRT, for the elephants captured in Alur.

Gowda said drones, radio collars and artificial intelligence (AI) technology would be used to monitor elephant movements and identify villages at risk. Timely alerts would help farmers plan their visits to agricultural fields, choose safer routes and seek assistance from forest officials.

He said farmers in Alur and other affected areas of Hassan district, as well as villages surrounding Bhadra Wildlife Sanctuary, must be able to access their agricultural fields without fear.

Gowda said he had held detailed discussions with Forest Minister Ramalinga Reddy and senior forest officials. Decisions on relocation would be taken after consultations with wildlife experts, veterinarians and field-level forest staff. A special meeting with senior officials would also be convened soon to discuss a long-term solution.



Alur: the Hassan district taluk where 10 wild elephants are being captured

He added that the government would focus on improving food and water availability inside forests by restoring native fodder plants, protecting natural water sources and preserving elephant migration corridors. These measures are expected to discourage elephants from entering agricultural fields and human settlements in search of food and water.

Strict PCPNDT enforcement stressed in Koppal



At the district-level PCPNDT Advisory Committee meeting at the DHO's office in Koppal.

CH NEWS, KOPPAL

The main objective of the Pre-Conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (Prohibition of Sex Selection) Act (PCPNDT) is to prevent female foeticide and promote gender equality, said District Health and Family Welfare Officer (DHO) Dr. Eshwar Savadi.

He was speaking while chairing a meeting of the district-level PCPNDT Advisory Committee at the DHO's office on Wednesday.

Dr. Savadi said some families continued to prefer male children and might pressure doctors to disclose the sex of unborn babies. He warned that prenatal sex determination and female foeticide were illegal offences. He said committee members could conduct inspections and confidential operations at scanning centres to identify violations.

He urged the public to report suspected illegal activities to the Health Department or police. District Family Welfare Officer Dr. Ravindranath M.H. said informants providing credible information that helped establish violations could receive a reward of Rs. 1 lakh. Their identities would be kept confidential, he added.

Dr. Savadi stressed that all scanning centres must maintain prescribed records, including Form F, and hold valid registrations under the Act. Centres must apply for registration renewal three months before expiry. Facilities violating the rules could face suspension or closure.

Explaining the legal provisions, officials said medical practitioners violating the Act could face imprisonment of up to three years and a fine of up to Rs. 10,000 for the first offence. Subsequent convictions carry stricter penalties. A doctor's name can be removed from the medical register for five years following a first conviction and permanently for a subsequent conviction. Persons seeking illegal sex determination also face imprisonment and fines.

The officials also stressed the need to report cases involving pregnant minors and prevent child marriages.

Committee members Dr. Girish, Dr. Dayanandaswamy, Dr. Smitha J. Ili, advocate Shankar Bisaralli and NGO representatives Dr. Vishwanath Basavaraja Nalwada, Shankrappa D. Sural and Salima John attended the meeting.

AHINDA groups allege injustice in Congress appointments

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Venkatesh Katti, a leader of AHINDA organisations representing minorities, backward classes and Dalits, has alleged that these communities are being neglected in appointments to the Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC) and government boards and corporations.

Speaking at a press conference on Wednesday, Katti said these communities had played a major role in bringing the Congress to power in Karnataka. However, he alleged that their representation had declined following the change in the Chief Minister's office.

Katti claimed that AHINDA communities had been sidelined in the appointment of chairpersons and directors to various government boards and corporations. He also alleged that these groups had received inadequate representation in KPCC wings and the Seva Dal.

AHINDA communities played a major role in bringing the Congress to power in Karnataka, Katti said

He further stated that the KPCC minority wing had not received new office-bearers for six months. Similarly, the appointment of the State Seva Dal president had remained pending for ten months, despite an internal selection process in which three names were reportedly sent to the party high command.

Katti also questioned the alleged dominance of one community in government and party appointments since D.K. Shivakumar became Chief Minister.

He said that although KPCC president B.K. Hariprasad belonged to a backward class, the representation of other communities in the party's key organisational units remained a concern.

He demanded fair representation for minorities, backward classes and Dalits in party and government appointments.

Students urged to become young scientists through research

CH NEWS, CHIKKABALLAPURA

Students should develop scientific thinking and find solutions to problems in their local communities to become young scientists, speakers said at the inauguration of the National Children's Science Congress (NCSC) held at Government High School on B.B. Road in Chikkaballapura.

The programme was jointly organised by the Department of Science and Technology, Karnataka State Council for Science and Technology, Zilla Panchayat and the District Education Department.

Rukmini, District Project Sub-Coordinator, inaugurated the event. Speaking on the occasion, she said the competition was being conducted under the theme 'Science and Innovation for Sustainability'. It featured two categories: the Junior Group for students aged 10 to 14 and the Senior Group for those aged 14 to 17.

She explained that teams selected at the district level would advance to the state-level competition. Winners at the state level would get an opportunity to present their research models at the national-level congress.



The inauguration of the National Children's Science Congress in Chikkaballapura.

The road to the nationals

1. **District:** teams selected in Chikkaballapura
2. **State:** district teams compete at the state level
3. **National:** state winners present their research models

Senior Lecturer Ramamurthy encouraged students to conduct research on local issues and develop practical solutions through scientific methods.

Observer Sachin said the programme aimed to identify and encourage the hidden talents of students. He added that modern technologies, including artificial intelligence, could help young people find solutions to problems in their communities.

The competition results were announced. In the Junior Group, Uppari Ujwal and Harshit Gowda K.V. were selected. In the Senior Group, Dheeraj S. Pujar and Tejas T.N. of PM SHRI Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya, Enigadale, Chintamani taluk, secured selection.

Government PU College Principal Satish, lecturers Manjunath and Shahataj, committee members Balraj, Dr. M. Shivakumar and Mahamad Hamid, District NRDMS Project Coordinator Manjula Chandugol, Government High School Headmistress Aruna, teachers and students attended the programme.

Haveri athlete selected for National Wheelchair Championship

CH NEWS, HAVERI

Girija H., an athlete from Haveri, has been selected to represent Karnataka in the first National-level Wheelchair Pickleball Championship, scheduled to be held from November 18 to 21 at the Indoor Sports Stadium in Vijayanagar, Mysuru.

Congratulating her achievement, the Students' Federation of India (SFI) and the Democratic Youth Federation of India (DYFI) felicitated Girija at the city's Inspection Bungalow. They wished her success in the championship and expressed hope that she would bring recognition to the district and the state.

Girija's selection is an encouraging achievement as she continues to pursue sports despite the challenges posed by her disability.

Speaking on the occasion, DYFI District President Basavaraja S. urged the district administration to provide better sports facilities, opportunities and encouragement to persons with disabilities. He also demanded the reopening of the hostel for working women and students with disabilities, which had previously provided them with important support.



Girija H. (in the wheelchair) at the felicitation by the SFI and DYFI in Haveri.

The championship

WHAT	First National-level Wheelchair Pickleball Championship
WHEN	November 18 to 21
WHERE	Indoor Sports Stadium, Vijayanagar, Mysuru

DYFI District Treasurer Renuka Kahar, Bhagat Singh Educational Institution Head Satish Bagannavar, Ningappa Arera of the Amma organisation, SFI District President Arun Kumar Nagavata, DYFI leaders Tasleema and Ningaraja Pujara, and Balasangha members Dhanush Doddamani, Mainuddin Ilibuddi, Anvika R.B. and Tejas N.D. attended the programme.

Rural children showcase talent at Gudibande art festival

CH NEWS, GUDIBANDE

The 'Art Festival for Rural Children – 2026' was held at Adarsha Vidyalaya in Tirumani Gram Panchayat limits of Gudibande taluk on Wednesday, under the chairmanship of Taluk Panchayat Executive Officer M. Nagamani.

Speaking at the event, Nagamani said drawing and painting competitions help children develop creativity, self-confidence and mental abilities. She said such activities encourage children to express their thoughts through art and communicate important social messages.

She urged teachers and parents to encourage children to take part in creative activities instead of spending excessive time on mobile phones and video games. She also stressed the importance of art and cultural activities in children's overall development.

Nagamani distributed prizes and certificates to students who secured the first three positions in the drawing competitions.

Drawing and painting competitions help children develop creativity, self-confidence and mental abilities, Nagamani said

The prize winners

In the Government High School category, based on the theme 'Indian Independence', Supreet Gowda won first place, Namratha secured second place and Latashree took third place.

In the Government Primary School category, based on the special features of Gudibande taluk, Divyashree won first place, Manusha secured second place and Jeevan took third place.

Panchayat Development Officer Narasimhamurthy, Satya Prasad, First Division Assistant Shivashankarappa, panchayat staff, the school headmaster and teachers attended the programme.

CHARTING COASTAL GROWTH

Karnataka unveils eight maritime projects for investors

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The Karnataka State Maritime and Waterways Transport Committee held its seventh meeting under the chairmanship of Chief Secretary Dr. Shalini Rajneesh. The meeting discussed ways to speed up maritime projects, attract investments and strengthen the state's maritime infrastructure.

During the meeting, officials released an investor handbook and marketing materials for eight Cabinet-approved maritime projects with an estimated investment potential of Rs. 18,295 crore.

The documents provide details of the proposed projects, investment opportunities and Karnataka's strategic advantages. They aim to help domestic and international investors understand the state's maritime potential and explore investment opportunities.

18,295

crore rupees: the estimated investment potential of the eight Cabinet-approved maritime projects

The Karnataka government plans to develop its maritime sector through these projects and encourage private participation. Tenders for the projects are expected to be issued shortly, according to the information released.

The government is pursuing the initiative under the leadership of Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar. K.S. Basavanthappa, Minister for Muzrai, Fisheries, Ports and Inland Water, holds the relevant ministerial portfolio. The projects are expected to attract private investment, create employment opportunities, strengthen maritime infrastructure and support economic growth in the coastal region. Karnataka aims to contribute to India's Blue Economy vision by developing its maritime sector.

Those present included Captain Sanjay T. Ugalugale, Director of the Karnataka Inland Water Transport Board; Dr. Vishal R., Secretary of the Infrastructure Development, Ports and Inland Water Transport Department; Dr. Shalini Rajneesh, Chief Secretary to the Government; and H.C. Balachandra, Chief Executive Officer of the Board.

Quick Read

GESCOM to hold consumer grievance meeting on Nov 21

CH NEWS, KOPPAL

GESCOM will organise a meeting for electricity consumers under the jurisdiction of the Koppal Operation and Maintenance (O&M) Sub-division on November 21 at 11 am.The meeting will be held at the conference hall of the O&M Sub-division office in Koppal to address consumer grievances and electricity-related issues.In a statement, the Assistant Executive Engineer of the Koppal GESCOM O&M Sub-division appealed to consumers to attend the meeting in large numbers and raise their concerns to seek appropriate solutions.

Power supply disruption in Koppal on Nov 22

CH NEWS, KOPPAL

Power supply will be disrupted in Koppal city, Bhagyanagar and surrounding villages on November 22 (Sunday), from 10 am to 4 pm, due to quarterly substation maintenance and emergency works.The interruption will affect areas under the 110 kV Koppal and 33 kV Kinnal substations, including their respective feeders and villages under Koppal City Municipal Council, Bhagyanagar Town Panchayat and Kinnal Gram Panchayat limits. GESCOM has requested consumers to cooperate. Supply may be restored earlier if work is completed ahead of schedule. The Assistant Executive Engineer has advised the public against carrying out electrical repairs during the shutdown.

HESCOM intensifies repairs to prevent electrical accidents

CH NEWS, GADAG

HESCOM has intensified repair and maintenance work across Gadag district to prevent electrical accidents and ensure the safety of farmers, the public and their crops.In a press release, the Superintending Engineer of HESCOM's Gadag Operations and Maintenance Circle said earthing repairs near the Kalamma transformer centre in Lakshmeshwar had been completed and a leaning electric pole had been straightened. Maintenance was also carried out on feeders, damaged low-tension lines and power lines obstructed by vegetation in Lakshmeshwar, Kallur and Mulgund areas.In Nargund and Hole Alur subdivisions, leaning electric poles were repaired. Power lines near Belahoda village were tightened, while tree branches obstructing the 15-km Ramagiri Nirantara Jyothi Yojana line were cleared.Similar maintenance work is under way in other parts of the district. Measures include repairing damaged poles, strengthening earthing systems, tightening power lines and removing vegetation near electrical installations.The work is being carried out under the direction of HESCOM's Managing Director, with the participation of officials and staff from various divisions and subdivisions, including Gadag and Ron.

The Superintending Engineer said public safety, protection of property and farmers' crops, and uninterrupted power supply remain the department's priorities.

Singatalur water levels raise drinking water concerns



The Singatalur barrage on the Tungabhadra near Hammigi, Mundargi taluk

MALINGARAYA PUJAR, MUNDARGI

The Tungabhadra river, a major source of drinking water for Gadag and Vijayanagara districts, is facing a decline in water levels following poor rainfall and drought conditions. Inflow into the Singatalur barrage near Hammigi village in Mundargi taluk has reportedly stopped, raising concerns over drinking water supplies and irrigation during the coming months.

Limited storage raises concerns

The barrage has a reported storage capacity of 3.17 TMC, while the current water availability is stated to be 2.37 TMC. Of this, around 0.50 TMC is dead storage, leaving approximately 1.87 TMC available for use.

> **"The water level has dropped due to the barrage inflow being stopped. We are preparing for the planting of the late season paddy by relying on river water. If the water is stopped now for sugarcane growers, their crops will also wither. The government should come to the aid of the farmers and provide appropriate compensation."**
>
> **— Ashwini Bidnal (Gowdar),** Farmer leader

Gadag-Betageri, Mundargi, Shirahatti and Huvinahadagali areas depend on the barrage for drinking water. Their combined daily requirement is estimated at around 40 million litres per day (MLD). Officials and residents are concerned that the available water may last only three to four months. If additional water is not released from the Bhadra reservoir, the region could face a serious shortage.

Farmers face uncertainty

Water inflow, which reportedly ranged between 400 and 1,000 cusecs over the past 15 days, has now fallen to zero. With drinking water supply being given priority, the Irrigation Department has reportedly written to the Gadag and Vijayanagara district administrations, seeking restrictions on farmers drawing water from the barrage's backwaters using pump sets.

The move has caused concern among farmers who were preparing to cultivate paddy, sugarcane and other commercial crops along the riverbank.

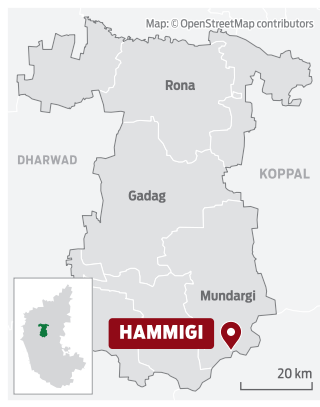
Pending rehabilitation limits storage

The incomplete relocation of four villages—Gummagol, Bidarahalli and Vittalapur in Mundargi taluk, and Allipura in Huvinahadagali taluk—has also raised questions about the barrage's storage capacity.

Singatalur barrage (TMC)

Capacity	3.17
Available now	2.37
Usable	1.87
Dead storage	0.50

Figures as reported



Hammigi: the barrage is near the village in Mundargi taluk

These villages fall within the area affected by the barrage's backwaters. Their pending rehabilitation has reportedly restricted the storage of additional water during the rainy season, forcing authorities to release water downstream.

Residents have criticised the delay, saying timely rehabilitation could have helped conserve more water and reduce the impact of drought. They have urged the authorities to complete the relocation process and take immediate steps to protect drinking water supplies and farmers' livelihoods.

CCB raids Belagavi spa, rescues four women



The CCB team at the salon and spa in Belagavi

The raid

- **Rescued:** four women from Gujarat and Mumbai
- **Detained:** the owner and the manager, for questioning
- **Case:** registered at Tilakwadi Police Station
- **Probe:** the possible involvement of others

CH NEWS, BELAGAVI

The City Crime Branch (CCB) police raided a salon and spa near RPD Cross in Belagavi on Wednesday, following allegations that a prostitution racket was operating under the guise of salon services. Four young women from Gujarat and Mumbai were reportedly rescued during the operation.

Acting on a tip-off, a CCB team led by Police Inspector Manjunath Nayak conducted a search at Divine Salon and Spa.

According to reports, women from other states were allegedly brought to the establishment on the pretext of providing salon and spa services and forced into prostitution. During the raid, police rescued four women and took the establishment's owner and manager into custody for questioning over their alleged involvement.

Arrangements are reportedly being made to provide rehabilitation and necessary assistance to the rescued women.

Following the operation, the case was transferred to Tilakwadi Police Station for further investigation and legal action. A case has been registered at the police station, and further investigation is under way.

Police are investigating the alleged activities at the establishment and the possible involvement of others in the case.

Madan Gowda selected for Borderland Kannada Award

CH NEWS, HASSAN

H.B. Madan Gowda, former president of the Hassan District Kannada Sahitya Parishat and editor of the regional newspaper Janamitra, has been selected for the prestigious Borderland Kannada Rajyotsava Award in recognition of his contributions to Kannada language, literature and culture.

The award will be presented on December 3 during the Ananthapuri Kannada Utsava-2026 at Bharat Bhavan in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala.

The Borderland Literary and Cultural Academy, an organisation working to promote Kannada language and culture among Kannadigas living in Kerala, is organising the festival. The event aims to bring together Kannadigas from different districts of Kerala and celebrate the cultural traditions of Karnataka and Kerala through various folk performances and programmes.

Safety neglected during clearance, vehicles damaged

CH NEWS, GADAG

The safety of the public must be a priority during demolition, clearance and development work. However, an incident at the old Tahsildar's office premises in Gadag has raised serious questions about the safety measures adopted by the district administration. A large tree reportedly fell during the clearance operation, crushing two cars and three two-wheelers parked on the premises.

No barricades or parking restrictions

The incident has raised concerns over the lack of precautionary measures before the work began. During clearance operations at crowded government offices, barricades and warning boards are generally installed to keep people away from potentially dangerous areas. Parking restrictions are also imposed to prevent damage to vehicles.

However, according to local residents, no such arrangements were made at the old Tahsildar's office before the operation began. Visitors who had arrived for official work reportedly parked their vehicles as usual. The sudden fall of the tree resulted in damage to five vehicles.



The tree that fell on parked vehicles at the old Tahsildar's office premises in Gadag

Major tragedy narrowly avoided

The premises usually witness a considerable number of visitors. Fortunately, no one was reportedly near the parked vehicles when the tree fell, preventing possible injuries or loss of life.

Residents questioned why adequate safety measures were not taken before the clearance work began. They said the incident could have resulted in a major tragedy if members of the public had been standing near the vehicles.

The incident has triggered anger among citizens, who have questioned the officials responsible for overseeing the operation.

Vehicle owners seek compensation

The owners of the damaged vehicles are facing financial losses despite having parked their vehicles at the government office premises during routine visits. They have urged the district administration to assess the damage and provide appropriate compensation for the two cars and three two-wheelers.

Safety measures must be strengthened

Residents have urged the district administration to ensure.

Railway revises arrival timings of seven trains



Representational image

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

South Western Railway has revised the arrival timings of several express trains at Yesvantpur and Hassan stations due to ongoing railway infrastructure works. The revised timings will come into effect from November 21, 2026, on different dates specified for each train.

According to the railway announcement, passengers travelling on the affected routes have been advised to check the updated schedules before beginning their journeys.

Hassan-bound train

A train on the Yesvantpur–Hassan route will now reach Hassan at 9.20 pm instead of 9.05 pm. There will be no change in timings between Yesvantpur and Shanthigrama.

Railway authorities have requested passengers to take note of the revised timings and cooperate.

NEW ARRIVAL TIMES AT YESVANTPUR

16572 | FROM NOV 23
Bidar–Yesvantpur Express: 7.40 am to 7.55 am

16528 | FROM NOV 21
Kannur–Yesvantpur Daily Express: 7.50 am to 8.05 am

16546 | FROM NOV 21
Sindhanur–Yesvantpur Daily Express: 8.05 am to 8.15 am

12214 | FROM NOV 23
Delhi Sarai Rohilla–Yesvantpur Duronto Express: 8.20 am to 8.25 am

16574 | FROM NOV 21
Puducherry–Yesvantpur Weekly Express: 8.20 am to 8.25 am

12735 | FROM NOV 22
Charlapalli–Yesvantpur Garib Rath Express: 8.20 am to 8.25 am

Reading books builds knowledge and personality: Turamari

CH NEWS, KUMTA

Reading books plays an important role in developing students' personalities, improving concentration and gaining knowledge, said Dr. Rajesh N. Turamari, Librarian at Kittel Arts College, Dharwad.

He was speaking after inaugurating a special programme on National Library Week and Digital Library Services for Competitive Examinations, held at the auditorium of Dr. A.V. Baliga Arts and Science Pre-University College, Kumta. The programme was jointly organised by the college and the Karnataka State Library Association (Regd.), Bengaluru, Karwar Unit.

Dr. Turamari said that reading books remained important even in the digital age. Regular reading helps students develop concentration, acquire in-depth knowledge and improve critical thinking skills.

He was also felicitated in recognition of his contributions to library science.

NAME CHANGE

I, **SUBHAN RAHMAN TANVEER**, S/o. Abdul Rahman Tanveer, Residing at No. 14/2, Rhenius Street, Opp. Hockey Stadium, Richmond Town, Bengaluru -560025, have changed my Father's name from **ABDUL RAHMAN** to **ABDUL RAHMAN TANVEER**, vide affidavit dated: 18.11.2026 before notary G. DAYANANDA, Bengaluru.

NAME CHANGE

I, **MOULANA A**, S/o Ameer Jan, residing at: B 179, J P Colony, Lakkur, Kolar, Karnataka-563160, hereby state that **MOULA** and **MOULANA A** both the names belongs to me. In future I will be continuing my name as **MOULANA A** in all my documents and records. The same has been notarised affidavit dated 05-08-2026 sworn before V. Rangaraju, Bangalore.

NAME CHANGE

I, **YAMUNA S** D/o Late Suresh, Aged about 28 Years residing at No.111, 13th Cross, LR Nagar, Koramangala, Bangalore South, Viveknagar Post, Bangalore -560 047, Aadhar No.4200 1460 7282, have Changed my Name from **YAMUNA** to **YAMUNA S** Vide affidavit date 18-11-2026 Sworn before Notary Leela Bangalore .

CHANGE OF NAME

I, ASHWINI GANGARAM LAMANI alias ASHWINI GANGARAM RATHOD D/o GANGARAM RATHOD, R/o Ward No.17, Sindagi Road, Allapur Oni, Bijapur Railway Station, Bijapur, Vijayapura, Karnataka-586101, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as ASHWINI GANGARAM RATHOD.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to public at large **Mrs. Sukanya G Shivakumar, W/O. S.Shivakumar,** Residing at No.127, Survey No.42, Near Navodaya School, Varadarajaswamy Layout, Singapura Village, Bangalore North, Bangalore, Karnataka - 560097. She has lost the Sale Deed of Document No.PNY-1-01905-2015-16, dated on 22-06-2015, She has lost at Near Singapura bus stop, Accordingly she has lodged the complainant on Bengaluru City Police with E-Lost dated: 18/11/2026 Report No.2543512/2026.
SCHEDULE PROPERTY: All the piece and parcel property bearing of Site No.14,Old Assessment 72.New Assessment No.72/5P, Khatha No.116, Situated at Ganigara Village, Yeshwanthapura Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, Measuring East to West: 30 Feet's, and North to South: 20 Feet's, Totally measuring 600 sq. feet's bounded on **East by** : Road, **West by** : Others Property, North by : Site No.14 Northern Portion, Registering a sale deed This day to Smt.Roshanisha (30X30 Sq. Feet's) **South by** : Road,If anyone finding the aforesaid document is hereby requested to hand over the same to our office at the address mentioned hereunder.
HARISHA .S, Advocate
#1479. DRLS PLAZA, Union Bank Building, T Dasarahalli, Bengaluru-560 057. Mobile No. 90609 50265.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to public at large **Mrs. Jayamma, W/O. Kumara Swami,** Residing at Kolala, Koratagere Taluk, Tumkur, Karnataka - 572140. She has lost the Sale Deed of Document No.KRT-1-02497-2020-21, dated on 02-12-2020, She has lost at Near Kolala bus stop, Accordingly she had lodged the complainant on Tumkur Police with E-Lost dated: 18/11/2026 Report No.2543440/2026.
SCHEDULE PROPERTY: All the piece and parcel property bearing of Site No.1, Property No.1036/1, PID No.15250030230162029 2, Situated at Kolala Village, Kolala Hobli, Koratagere Taluk, Tumkur District. Measuring East to West: 9.144 Meter's, and North to South: 13.411200000000001 Meter's, Totally measuring 122.63 sq. Meter's bounded on **East by:** Property of Thimmegowda, **West by** : Site No.2, **North by** : Private Property, **South by** : Road,If anyone finding the aforesaid document is hereby requested to hand over the same to our office at the address mentioned hereunder.
HARISHA .S, Advocate
#1479. DRLS PLAZA, Union Bank Building, T Dasarahalli, Bengaluru-560 057. Mobile No. 90609 50265.

NAME CHANGE

I, **NAWAZ MOHAMED MEHRABAN ALI KHAN**, Residing at No. 116, White House, Akashvani VNSS Layout Main Road, Thanisandra, Near 80 Feet Road, Dr. S.R. Nagar, Bengaluru -560077, have changed my name to **MEHERBAN ALI KHAN**, vide affidavit dated: 18.11.2026 before notary G. DAYANANDA, Bengaluru.

NAME CHANGE

I, **SHANTHI MALLEGESHAN**, W/o. Saravana, resident of No:122, Bhagyamma Compound, 1ST Main, 4TH Cross, Near More Mall, V P Road, Madiwala Post, Bommanahalli, Bangaluru – 560068. have changed my name to **SHANTHI**, vide affidavit dated: 17.11.2026, before Notary V Rajashekhara, Bengaluru.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the general public that **Sri. SHIVAMADESH** residing at No.2287, 10th Main Road, Yalachenahalli 2nd Stage, Bengaluru – 560 078, has lost an Original site allotments Letter Sale Deed all original documents, City BBMP New EPID No. of the property **5619954939** property **No.18812287** Ward No.185 Yalachenahalli, Bengaluru, which stands lost and shall have no legal validity for any purpose whatsoever; any person/s in possession thereof or claiming any right thereunder is called upon to deliver the same to the Declarant within **15 days** from the date of publication hereof, failing which it shall be presumed that no valid claim exists. The same has been reported to the Karnataka State Police and a Lost Article Report bearing No. **2540862/2026**, dated: **17.11.2026** has been generated. I request all concerned authorities and the general public to take note of this change.
Place: Bengaluru
Date: 17.11.2026
YADUNANDAN, Advocate
No.14, Yelethothadapalya,
J.P. Nagar 9th Phase, Anjanapura Post, Bengaluru-560062, **Mob**:8050269575

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Vishal Kapoor S/o Virender Kapoor R/o Flat No. 5112, Tower 5, Prestige Sunrise Park, Birchwood, Neotown Road, Phase-1, Electronics City, District: Bengaluru, Karnataka-560100, I have changed my minor Son's name Aryaman Kapoor to Aryamn Kapoor

CHANGE OF NAME

I, VIBHISHEK CHANDAR KANNAN alias VIBHISHEK CHANDAR K S/o KANNAN, R/o No. 201A, Building 2A, Ranka Colony, Bilekahalli, Bengaluru, Karnataka-560076, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as VIBHISHEK CHANDAR.

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client by name Sri. Anil Kumar P. son of Sri. Puttaramaiah B.K., residing at: No. 62, Basaveshwara Nagara, Old Soap Factory Road, Kanakapura Town, has lost Original Registered Sale Deed dated: 09-02-2022, executed by Sri. Durgegowda @ Durgaiah in favour of Sri. K. Kumar and his wife Smt. Savithramma, which is duly registered as Document No. KNK-1-12658/2021-22, CD. No. KNKD-1330, Book-1, Registered on 09-02-2022 and Registered at Sub Registrar Office, Kanakapura, while Xerox at Kanakapura Town on 09-11-2026. Hence, if anyone found the said document, please intimate the same or handover the same to me or my client.
Contact Address:
Rajini. M.S., B.A., LL.B., Advocate., 1st Floor, Society Building, PLD Bank Road, Opposite Old Bus Stop, Ramanagara Town-562159.
Mob: 8884242935.
Place: Ramanagara.
Date: 18-11-2026.

DOCUMENT LOST

This is to inform to General public that my client Smt, lakshmidevamma .G w/o M.Nagaraj, Residing at Harati Village, Kasaba Hobali, Kolar Taluk., Kolar District, I am the Owner of the Below said Property,while partition Sale Deed for taken Digital copy ,have lost following Documents of property pertating to below Mentioned property Situated at Deshihalli village, Kasaba Hobali, Bangarapete Taluk., Kolar District, had published the factum of lost of his Original Sale deed Deed,Dated;-21-06-2006, Regd sale deed, Executed by Smt, siddamma and Others, in favour of Smt,Chandrabayi, In regd as Book No.1,Volume No.BPT-1-01016/2006-07,IN CDNO BPTD 20, IN SRO Bangarapete,in respect of Deshihalli village, Syno12/2, in Measuring 1 acre 10.08.00 Guntas, and Original Sale deed Deed,Dated;-23-09-2006, Regd sale deed, Executed by Smt,Chandrabayi, in favour of sri,kodeppa , In regd as Book No.1,Volume No.BPT-1-02499/2006-07,IN CDNO BPTD 22, IN SRO Bangarapete,and Original Sale deed Deed,Dated;-23-11-2010, Regd sale deed, Executed by Sri,kodeppa and Others, in favour of Sri,K.Suresha , In regd as Book No.1,Volume No.BPT-1-04845/2010-11,IN CDNO BPTD 109, IN SRO Bangarapete police complaint have been filed with regards to loss of the above said Document vide complaint in NCR NO. Lost Report no.2539511/2026, DATED;-16-11-2026, and complaint dated;-16-11-2026, by respective person,if anybody finds these Document please inform within 7 Days in Below mentioned Address.
Place- Chinthamani
Date- 16-11-2026
K.S.HARISH KUMAR
ADVOCATE
Office: NEAR KISHORE SCHOOL, ABOVE APPOLO PHARMACY, BESIDE SANTHOSHI MATHA TEMPLE, BANGALORE MAIN ROAD CHINTHAMANI.
MOBILE NO:9980110692

CH CLASSIFIEDS
To place a classified ad contact: **080-41209042**

Quick Read

Youth Parliament programme to be held in Karwar

CH NEWS, KARWAR

A district-level Youth Parliament programme will be held on November 19 at 9.45 am in the Deputy Commissioner's office auditorium to mark International Day of Democracy.

Cooperation Minister and Uttara Kannada District In-charge Minister Laxman Sangappa Savadi will inaugurate the programme. MLA Satish K. Sail will preside over the event.

Several public representatives, including R.V. Deshpande, Vishweshwar Hegde Kageri, Arabail Shivaram Hebbar, Dinakar K. Shetty and Bhimanna T. Naik, are expected to participate, along with other elected representatives and officials.

Water supply to be suspended in Karwar for two days

CH NEWS, KARWAR

Water supply will be disrupted in Karwar, Ankola and surrounding areas on November 19 and 20 due to cleaning work at the Navagadde water storage tanks.

The cleaning work is scheduled for November 19 under the Karwar-Ankola water supply scheme. The disruption will also affect the SeaBird Naval Base, Grasim Industries Ltd. at Binaga and villages along the supply route.

The Assistant Executive Engineer of the Karnataka Water Supply and Sewerage Board, Karwar Sub-Division, has appealed to the public to cooperate with the maintenance work.

Karnataka transfers 32 IPS officers in major police reshuffle

Karnataka transferred 32 IPS officers, appointed R. Hithendra as Bengaluru Police Chief, and restructured the city into five commissionerates.

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The Karnataka government has ordered a major reshuffle in the police department, transferring 32 IPS officers and introducing a new five-commissionerate structure for Bengaluru city. The changes include the appointment of R. Hithendra as the Chief Commissioner of Police, Bengaluru.

Hithendra, who was serving as Additional Director General of Police (ADGP), Law and Order, will oversee the five newly created commissionerates. Outgoing Bengaluru Police Commissioner Seemant Kumar Singh has been transferred as ADGP, Karnataka State Fire and Emergency Services.



Other important appointments

N. Shashikumar has been appointed Inspector General of Police (IGP), Western Range, Mangaluru. Anupam Agrawal will head the Karnataka State Reserve Police (KSRP) as IGP, while Kuldeep Kumar R. Jain has been appointed Deputy Inspector General (DIG) and Police Commissioner of Kalaburagi.

Dr. Sharanappa S.D. has been posted as DIG, Railways, and Saidulu Adavath as Superintendent of Police, Internal Security Division, Bengaluru.

Several changes have also been made among Bengaluru's Deputy Commissioners of Police. These include Dr. Anoop A. Shetty as DCP, East Traffic; P.V. Sneha as DCP, West Traffic; Lokesh Jagalasar as DCP, Central Traffic; and Ranjit Kumar Bandaru as DCP, Administration.

The government has issued transfer and appointment orders with immediate effect as part of the restructuring of the Karnataka Police Department.

Kanakadasa Jayanti to be celebrated simply amid drought



At the preliminary meeting on Kanakadasa Jayanti in Chitradurga

CH NEWS, CHITRADURGA

Kanakadasa Jayanti will be celebrated in a simple manner this year in view of the severe drought prevailing in the state and district. Funds allocated for the celebrations will be considered for diversion towards drought management, Additional Deputy Commissioner B.T. Kumaraswamy said.

He was speaking at a preliminary meeting with community leaders held at the Deputy Commissioner's office on Wednesday.

Kumaraswamy said no procession would be organised this year, irrespective of whether the Model Code of Conduct was in force. The Jayanti programme will be held on November 27 at 10.30 am in the Deputy Commissioner's office hall in the presence of community representatives.The programme will include speeches by resource persons and a recital of Kanakadasa's devotional songs. District-level officials and staff will also be directed to attend.

The Additional Deputy Commissioner appreciated the community leaders for supporting a simple celebration in view of the drought situation. He said a report would be submitted to the government on the proposed use of Jayanti grants for drought management after examining whether such diversion was permitted under existing rules.

During the meeting, officials were instructed to clean and decorate Kanakadasa's statue at Kanaka Circle on Holalkere Road. The damaged structure at the circle must also be repaired, and CCTV cameras installed to improve public safety. The fountain near the statue should operate every Saturday and Sunday.

Community leaders also urged the City Municipal Council to complete the development of Sangolli Rayanna Circle, for which funds have already been sanctioned. They further requested that statues of prominent personalities at major circles be cleaned and decorated on their respective Jayanti occasions.Several district officials, representatives of the Kuruba community and other prominent personalities attended the meeting.

Awareness programme highlights vehicular pollution control

CH NEWS, KARWAR

An awareness programme on vehicular air pollution and environmental protection was organised jointly by the Regional Transport Office (RTO), Karwar, and the APD Foundation, Mangaluru, at Government Pre-University College, Karwar, on Wednesday.

Speaking at the programme, Surya Narayana Otepadvu, resource person from the APD Foundation, said clean air and oxygen were essential for human life.

He warned that air, water, noise and soil pollution were disturbing the environmental balance and called for greater efforts to protect nature.

He said the increasing number of vehicles was contributing to rising air and noise pollution.



At the awareness programme at Government PU College, Karwar

Vehicle owners were advised to maintain their vehicles properly, undergo regular pollution checks and avoid unnecessary engine idling and excessive honking.

He also urged owners to follow applicable regulations regarding the scrapping of old vehicles and encouraged the use of environment-friendly electric vehicles to reduce pollution.

Vidya Kavari, Principal of Government First Grade College, attended the programme. RTO staff members Shivaji Shinde and Vidya, APD Foundation Coordinator Geetha Surya, college lecturers and students were also present.

Advice to vehicle owners

- **Maintain** vehicles properly
- **Regular** pollution checks
- **No needless** idling or honking
- **Scrap old vehicles** by the rules
- **Switch** to electric vehicles

DC reviews preparations for Hiriyur public service meet

HIRIYUR: Deputy Commissioner S. Ramya reviewed preparations for the Praja Seva Andolana scheduled for November 21 at 11 am at Nehru Grounds in Hiriyur. Karnataka Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar will lead the programme.At a meeting with department officials on Wednesday, she directed departments to showcase public welfare schemes, achievements and services through stalls. Special stalls on organic farming, modern agricultural methods and nutrition awareness were also planned. She instructed officials to register public grievances and ensure their timely resolution. Ramya later inspected the venue along with senior district officials.

Minister directs officials to strengthen livestock vaccination

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Animal Husbandry and Sericulture Minister C. Puttarangashetty has directed officials to ensure adequate availability and timely administration of vaccines to prevent the spread of infectious diseases among livestock across Karnataka.

During his visit to the Institute of Animal Health and Veterinary Biologicals, the Minister held a meeting with officials to review the department's activities and disease prevention measures.

He said the institute was the first animal vaccine production centre established in the state and stressed the need to maintain sufficient vaccine stocks. Expressing concern over the reported rise in Lumpy Skin Disease cases, he instructed officials to strengthen vaccination, treatment and preventive measures to protect livestock. He also warned against negligence in carrying out these responsibilities.

Department Commissioner Lingaraju, Institute Director Ratnam, the Minister's Private Secretary Dr. Rajeev Kooler and other officials attended the meeting.

Minister makes surprise visit to Hebbal office

In a separate inspection, Puttarangashetty made a surprise visit to the office of the Deputy Director of the Department of Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Services at Hebbal in Bengaluru.



Vaccination to be stepped up as Lumpy Skin Disease cases rise

During the inspection, he questioned Deputy Director Dr. Parameshwara K.T. over his reported late arrival at the office. The Minister instructed the officer and other staff members to maintain punctuality and attend to their duties on time.

He also stressed that officials must ensure the timely delivery of services to the public and discharge their responsibilities without delay.

The Minister emphasised that protecting livestock health and improving the functioning of departmental offices must remain priorities.

Officials urge parents to consider HPV vaccination for girls

CH NEWS, CHITRADURGA

Parents should ensure that eligible girls receive the Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine to protect them against cervical cancer, Taluk Health Officer Dr. B.V. Girish said.

He was speaking at an awareness programme organised on Tuesday at Ajjappanahalli Anganwadi Centre in Chitradurga taluk.

The programme was jointly organised by the District Information, Education and Communication (IEC) Division, the Taluk Health Officer's office and Yelagodu Primary Health Centre to address parents' concerns about HPV vaccination.

UDACHAPPA MALAGI HONOURED WITH BHIMA SEVA RATNA AWARD

CH NEWS, HAVERI

Udachappa Malagi, State President of the Karnataka State Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Backward Classes and Minorities Welfare Committee, has been honoured with the prestigious Bhima Seva Ratna Award for his contributions to social service and organisational activities.

The award was presented at a programme organised by the Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Seva Samiti (SC/ST) at the Community Hall in Malagi village of Mundgod taluk.

Speaking at the event, Yallappa Hosamani, State President of the Samiti, said the organisation recognises individuals who have made significant contributions to society and honours them with the Bhima Seva Ratna Award. He appreciated Udachappa Malagi's dedication to social work and organisational activities and expressed confidence that the recognition would encourage him to continue serving society.Accepting the award, Udachappa Malagi said he had been working for the welfare of society, following the philosophy of Basavanna, 'Kayakave Kailasa' (Work is Worship).

THE MYSORE SUGAR COMPANY LIMITED, MANDYA
(A Govt.of Karnataka Undertaking)
Sugar Town, Mandya-571 402.
Telephone:08232-224036 **Website:** www.mysoresugarcompany.org/
GM/AM(C)/Sug/42/2026–27 Date:18.11.2026

SHORT TERM e-TENDER NOTIFICATION

The Mysore Sugar Company, is invited e-auction short term tender for Sale of produced product of S.30 Sugar.

Item No.	Material Description	Sale Quantity	EMD of Rs (in Rs)	e-auction tender number	e-auction tender fee
01	S-30 (Production 2026-27)	7500/– Qntl.	Rs.50/-per Qntl.	MSCO/2026-27/ AUCTION73	As per e-portal norms

Note: Bidders should visit The Mysore Sugar Company, Mandya. Inspect the quality of **S.30** Sugar before quoting the price. To fill through e-procurement (https://Kppp.Karnataka.gov.in). The start of upload the tender date for e-portal auction is **18.11.2026** and the last date is **24.11.2026 at 5.00 PM.** Online e-auction will be held on **25.11.2026 from 10.00 AM to 02.00 PM.**
For further information contact mobile number **9964390489/7353328103.** The Managing Director reserve the right to accept or reject the e-auction tender without assigning any reason and Managing Director decision in this regard is final and binding.
Date:18.11.2026 **SD/-**
ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ಹಿಸಗಿ–ಮಂ/ಕೆಎಸ್ಎಂಸಿಎ/553/2025–26 **GENERAL MANAGER**

KALABURAGI MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Fax No.08472/260776, Phone: 08472/ 278675, Email Id: itstaff_ulb_gulbarga@yahoo.com
No: KMP/VS/160/2026-27 Date: 17.11.2026

KARNATAKA PUBLIC PROCUREMENT PORTAL TENDER NOTIFICATION NO:160/2026-27

1) Kalaburagi Mahanagara Palike, Kalaburagi invites 3 tenders as per KTPP Act, 1999 and Rules, 2000 through KPPP Portal 2.0 for Goods and Service Tenders bid documents under NMPC 2024-25 and Corporation fund 2026-27.
The bid documents can download from KPPP Portal website and any information related to these tenders will be updated on **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in**
2) Estimate Sanction cost: Min Amount **Rs. 50.50 Lakhs and Max Rs.79.31 Lakhs,** 3) EMD Value: Min Amount Rs. 93,000 and Max Rs.1,35,000, 4) Last date of Bid Submission: **03 .12.2026 upto 4-30 pm.** 5) Technical Bid Opening date: **04.12.2026 upto 4-35 pm.** 6) Financial Bid Opening date: **05.12.2026 after 11:30 am.**7) Office Address : Executive Engineer Vehicle section, Kalaburagi Mahanagara Palike, Kalaburagi. 8) For more details visit Office Website **http://www.kalaburagicity.mrc.gov.in/**
Note: All subsequent corrigendum/amendment shall be published only on website and not in press. Hence, tenderers are advoised to always be in touch with our said website until the tender is finally opened.
DIPR/Kalaburagi/689/KSMC&A/2026-27 **Sd/- Executive Engineer, Kalaburagi Mahanagara Palike, Kalaburagi.**

CAUVERY NEERAVARI NIGAMA LIMITED
(A Government of Karnataka under taking)
Office of the Executive Engineer, M.P. Division
Bangalore South District, Ramanagara-562 159
e-mail: eempdrmgm@gmail.com
No.: EE/MPDiv./RMN/TND-07/2026-27 Date: 18.11.2026

Short-term Tender Notification No.07/2026-27

The CNNL hereby invites Tender for the different kinds of works under 4701 head for works under Magadi, Ramanagara, Kanakapura and Channapatana Constituency through **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** portal. The last date for tender submission, Opening of Financial Bid dates, Pre bid meeting dates, EMD details and more information can be downloaded from the website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** portal and for further information please visit office at working hours.
Sd/- Executive Engineer
M.P. Division,CNNL, Bengaluru South Dist.
Ramanagara
DIPR/BSD/396/SA/2026-27

KRISHNA BHAGYA JALA NIGAM LIMITED
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
Office of the Executive Engineer,
KBJNL, ALBC Division, Almatti-586201.
Tq:Nidagundi, Dist: Vijayapur.
No:KBJNL/ALBC-DN/DB/TND/I.No.3508/2026-27/1260
Date: 07.11.2026

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through KPP Portal Only)

On behalf of the Managing Director, KBJNL, Bangalore the undersigned invites tender on percentage basis from the **Registered Super Grade Electrical Contractor**for the work of **"Overhauling, servicing and supply of spares and re-erection of dismantled pump no. 10 at ALBC Headwork Almatti Dam Site (Indent No.3508)"** under KTTP act in **KW-4 in Two Coversystem**. Details are as below;
Amount Put To Tender: **Rs.145.94 Lakhs.**
Indent No: **KBJNL/2026-27/LI/WORK_INDENT3508.**
Category: **General**
Stages of Tender Process;
1. The contractor can have access and submit e-tender **from 11-11-2026 to 30-11-2026 up to 5-00 PM**.
2. Pre bid meeting on **Date: 19-11-2026 at 11-00 AM** in the Office of the Executive Engineer, KBJNL, ALBC Division, Almatti.
3. Cover-I (Technical) Bid will be opened on **02-11-2026 at 11-00 AM** onwards.
4. Cover-II (Financial Bid) will be opened on **07-11-2026 at 11-00 AM** onwards.
At the Office of the Executive Engineer, KBJNL, ALBC Division, Almatti. For clarifications office of the undersigned may be contacted during office hours. Further information about electronic tendering can be had from https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/#/portal/portal
ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ವಿಜಯಪುರ/409/ ಕೆಎಸ್ಎಂಸಿಎ/2026–27 **Sd/- Executive Engineer, KBJNL, ALBC Division, Almatti**

STOP DIGGING THE GRAVE; ENFORCE THE RULES ALREADY IN PLACE

Announcing old rules is not enough; the government must ensure strict enforcement and crack down on sellers of substandard helmets



SHYAM SUNDAR VATTAM

The State Government's latest decision to ban the use of half helmets, popularly known as 'miner's caps', and non-ISI-certified helmets by two-wheeler riders has once again brought road safety into focus.

While Transport Minister Byrathi Suresh may have announced the decision with the intention of protecting motorists, there is little novelty in it. These regulations have been in existence for decades. What has been missing is their serious and consistent enforcement.

The ban on half helmets is not new to Karnataka. The rule was introduced several decades ago, particularly after two-wheeler riders began using miner's caps to evade traffic police fines while claiming that they were wearing helmets. However, despite the regulation, these helmets continue to be commonly seen on city roads. Many riders even argue with traffic policemen that they cannot be penalised because they are technically wearing a helmet. Ironically, even some police personnel have been seen using half helmets while riding two-wheelers provided by the government.

The question, therefore, is not whether the government should introduce another rule, but why the existing one has not been implemented effectively for so many years.

The proposed crackdown on non-ISI-marked helmets also raises a similar concern. Safety-certified helmets are designed to withstand impact and protect the rider's head during accidents. However, many motorists prefer cheaper alternatives available on roadside stalls for as little as Rs. 300 to Rs. 400. Some of these helmets carry ISI markings, but whether the certification is genuine or counterfeit is rarely checked. A minor impact can be enough to crack or damage such inferior products, rendering them virtually useless in an accident.

A helmet is not merely an accessory to avoid a traffic fine. It is a critical piece of safety equipment. Medical experts repeatedly emphasise that the head houses the brain and the central nervous system, and a serious injury can result in permanent disability or even death. Saving a few hundred rupees by purchasing an inferior helmet could therefore cost a person his or her life.

If the government is genuinely concerned about the safety of two-wheeler riders, its action should not end with penalising motorists. The entire supply chain of substandard helmets must be brought under scrutiny. Traffic police and enforcement authorities



should crack down on roadside vendors selling unsafe helmets, while the departments concerned must inspect manufacturing units, distributors and dealers. Factories found producing counterfeit or substandard helmets should face stringent legal action and closure in accordance with the law.

Another practical measure would be to make it compulsory for two-wheeler showrooms to provide a genuine ISI-certified protective helmet at the time of delivering a new vehicle. This would ensure that every new buyer starts riding with appropriate safety equipment rather than purchasing a cheap alternative from roadside vendors. The government could also explore making such helmets part of the vehicle delivery package through appropriate regulatory provisions.

Parents, too, have a major responsibility. Many readily fulfil their children's demands for sleek, powerful and expensive two-wheelers but often overlook the importance of providing them with proper protective gear. A sturdy, certified helmet should be considered as essential as the vehicle itself. Allowing youngsters to ride without adequate protection is an invitation to tragedy.

> *"The need of the hour is not another rule, but the will to enforce the rules already on the statute book."*
> **SHYAM SUNDAR VATTAM**

The government must also ensure that its own personnel, particularly police officers and other officials who ride two-wheelers, strictly follow the same safety regulations. Enforcement loses credibility when those entrusted with implementing the law are seen violating it themselves.

Road safety cannot be achieved through announcements, publicity campaigns or occasional traffic drives. It requires sustained enforcement, accountability and public awareness. The Transport Minister's concern for the safety of motorists is welcome, but announcing a rule that has existed for 25 to 30 years cannot be presented as a fresh initiative.

Instead of digging the grave of road safety through continued negligence, the government must revisit the existing regulations, identify why they have failed and direct the enforcement agencies to implement them without fear or favour.

BELONGING: LOVE, IDENTITY AND THE JOURNEY OF A WOMAN



MAHENDRA TIWARI

A person's life is not defined merely by their place of birth, family, language or citizenship. Sometimes, the greatest journey of life is the search for a sense of belonging. Finding a home in a country whose language, culture and way of life are different from one's own is never easy. It becomes even more challenging when that individual eventually emerges as one of the most influential figures in that country's political landscape. Sonia Gandhi's autobiography, Belonging: A Journey of Love, is best understood from this perspective. It is not merely the life story of a political personality, but also an account of love, identity, family relationships, personal tragedies and the long journey of making a new country one's own.

The book has been published by HarperCollins India. Earlier, Penguin India was associated with its publication, but following editorial differences, the publisher was changed. This development itself reflects the extent of public, political and literary interest surrounding Sonia Gandhi's personality and the material associated with her life.

One of the most striking features of the book is its personal tone. Sonia Gandhi acknowledges that writing about her own life was not an easy experience. Bringing memories, experiences and emotions preserved within her for decades into the public domain was a challenging process. Despite spending decades at the centre of Indian politics, Sonia Gandhi has largely maintained silence about her private life. Much has been written and said about her, and numerous perceptions have been shaped through political debates. However, this time, she has attempted to tell her story in her own words. That is what makes this autobiography particularly significant.

The book begins with her childhood in the Veneto region of post-war Italy. Growing up in an ordinary Italian family, Sonia Maino's journey eventually takes her to Cambridge. It was there, in 1965, that she met Rajiv Gandhi. Their acquaintance gradually developed into love and ultimately led to marriage. Falling in love with a young Indian man whose family belonged to one of the most prominent political dynasties in India gave a completely new direction to Sonia's life.

Coming to India was not merely a geographical transition for her. It marked the beginning of accepting a new language, a different culture, an unfamiliar social environment and new family responsibilities. Her first meeting with Indira Gandhi, her efforts to learn Hindi, her adoption of the sari as traditional Indian attire, and her gradual familiarity with Indian food and lifestyle all reflect the journey of a young foreign woman slowly adapting to a new environment. These episodes are not simply about becoming a daughter-in-law in an Indian family; they reveal the process of retaining one's original identity while gradually building a new one.

However, life does not always follow the easy path of love and belonging. The Gandhi family experienced a series of tragedies that deeply affected Sonia Gandhi's life. The death of Sanjay Gandhi in an aircraft accident, the assassination of Indira Gandhi in 1984, and subsequently the assassination of Rajiv Gandhi in 1991 were not merely significant events in India's political history. Behind these events lay the unbearable grief of a family, the loneliness of a wife and the suffering of a mother.

After Rajiv Gandhi's assassination, Sonia Gandhi faced the greatest challenge of holding her family together and rebuilding her personal life. She wanted to remain away from active politics. However, circumstances and the demands of time repeatedly drew her towards public life. An important aspect of this autobiography is that her entry into politics is presented not as the outcome of a predetermined political ambition, but as a consequence of circumstances, responsibilities and events connected with her family's legacy.

One of the most widely discussed episodes in the book concerns her decision to decline the post of Prime Minister in 2004. Following the electoral victory of the Congress-led alliance, there was widespread speculation that Sonia Gandhi would become the Prime Minister of India. However, she chose not to accept the position. According to her account, she had made this decision several months before the elections. The Congress presented this episode as an act of sacrifice and moral courage, while political opponents interpreted it from different perspectives. Some described it as a political strategy, while others considered it a consequence of prevailing circumstances.

Here, readers need to understand an important point: an autobiography is not an impartial textbook of history. It is a personal account shaped by the author's memories, experiences, beliefs and perspectives. Therefore, the events and conclusions presented by Sonia Gandhi should be understood as her personal account rather than accepted as the final historical verdict on every controversy.

The book also touches upon several significant subjects, including the Emergency of 1975, the Babri Masjid controversy, the anti-Sikh riots of 1984, her role during the Manmohan Singh government, Pranab Mukherjee's



aspirations to become Prime Minister, the 2008 agreement between the Communist Party of China and the Congress, and her relationship with Prime Minister Narendra Modi. These references take the autobiography beyond personal memories and connect it with the wider discourse on contemporary Indian politics.

However, while reading these subjects, certain questions naturally arise. Does the book discuss all controversies with equal depth and clarity? Are there episodes on which the author has consciously chosen to remain silent? Does her personal perspective sometimes take precedence over objective facts while interpreting political events? To find answers to these questions, readers must also refer to other historical documents, contemporary news reports and books written from different ideological perspectives. The credibility of any autobiography depends not only on the author's sincerity but also on the reader's ability to examine its claims against other sources.

Another important dimension of this book concerns a woman's identity and her struggles. An Italian woman who was initially unfamiliar with India's language and political culture gradually became part of Indian society and eventually emerged as one of the most prominent leaders and the longest-serving president of the country's largest political party. This journey is extraordinary in itself. It reflects a woman's love, commitment to family, personal sacrifices and her struggle to establish her place in public life while confronting changing circumstances.

Nevertheless, it would not be appropriate to view this entire journey merely through the lens of sacrifice and dedication. Sonia Gandhi's political career has also been associated with power, organisational leadership, decision-making and public accountability. Therefore, while evaluating her autobiography, it is essential to consider both her personal emotions and her public responsibilities. It is entirely possible to be sensitive towards an individual's personal suffering while simultaneously examining their political decisions critically.

In my opinion, Belonging should be read as two parallel journeys. The first is the journey of love and belonging, encompassing the relationship between Sonia and Rajiv and her experience of making India her home. The second is the journey through power and public life, tracing the emergence of a woman at the centre of Indian politics, despite her initial desire to remain away from politics.

While reading this book, admiration should not become so overwhelming that every statement is accepted as unquestionable truth, nor should political opposition become so dominant that the author's personal experiences are dismissed altogether. The purpose of literature and autobiography is not merely to praise or criticise, but also to develop a deeper understanding of human beings and the times in which they live.

Ultimately, the significance of Belonging: A Journey of Love lies in the opportunity it offers readers to look into the inner world of a personality whom they have mostly encountered on political platforms, through public statements and in the corridors of power. How many historical truths the book brings to light and how many questions it leaves unanswered are matters that readers must decide through their own study and judgement. However, the journey of a young woman who came from another country, developed an emotional bond with India and eventually became an important part of its political life is undoubtedly a subject worthy of study and discussion.

Accepting a country as one's own does not simply mean acquiring its citizenship. It also means developing an emotional connection with its joys and sorrows, its language, its memories and its people. Perhaps this is where the title Belonging acquires its deepest meaning. It is not merely the story of living in India, but of embracing India as one's own and discovering a sense of identity through that relationship. This, perhaps, is the book's greatest literary and human achievement.

JIO'S FREE NETWORK AND LIFETIME RECOVERY

DR. SATYAVAN SAURABH



From the allure of free services to market capture, the race for privatization raises serious questions about consumer interests and social justice

In the modern economy, privatization is presented as a synonym for growth, competition, and improved services. It is argued that private companies are more efficient than government institutions, their services are better, and they offer consumers more choice. But this rosy picture has another side that needs serious consideration. When basic services like education, health, electricity, water, transportation, and communication become a means of profit rather than a public service, the potential for economic inequality and exploitation in society increases. The question is not whether the private sector should have the right to do business, but whether it is appropriate to leave the basic needs of citizens entirely to the mercy of market forces.

The telecommunications sector is an interesting example. The arrival of Jio significantly transformed the Indian telecom market. Initially, its offer of free calling and cheap internet connected millions to the digital world. Internet access expanded, facilitating online education, digital payments, and access to information. This certainly had positive consequences. However, this change also led to the development of a consumer culture in which the allure of free and cheap services made people even more dependent on private companies. There was a time when many people had only one mobile SIM, but with the advent of cheap recharges, different networks, and attractive plans, many began owning multiple SIMs. This process, which began in the name of market competition, gradually began to influence consumer habits and dependencies.

The key point to understand is that any private company ultimately operates with its investment, market share, and profits in mind. Free or extremely cheap services are not always a policy of sustainable public welfare. After initial attraction, fees may increase, terms of plans may change, and consumers may be left with limited options. When a few large companies become too influential in a sector, there is a risk of weakening genuine competition. In such a situation, consumers see options, but their bargaining power is diminished. Therefore, it is not appropriate to consider a company's popularity as a guarantee of consumer interests.

The biggest problem with privatization arises when it expands into sectors on which the lives of ordinary citizens depend. Consider education. If quality education is available only in expensive private schools and universities, how will equal opportunities be ensured for children from poor families? If privatization of healthcare continues without effective regulation, a serious illness can plunge a family into financial crisis. If profit-making becomes the primary objective even in services like electricity, water, and transportation, then citizens from lower income groups bear the greatest burden.

The market has its utility, but it cannot be a substitute for social justice. The market invests where the potential for profit is high. Conversely, the government's primary responsibility is to provide services to areas and people where economic returns may be low or negligible. It is the government's responsibility to run schools in remote villages, establish health centers in backward areas, provide affordable electricity to poor families, and expand public transportation. The value of these services cannot be measured solely by economic profit. Their true value lies in social security, equal opportunity, and civic dignity.

A serious consequence of privatization is social division. When services become based on purchasing power, society becomes divided into two classes. One class enjoys the benefits of expensive hospitals, prestigious schools, private transportation, and improved communication facilities, while the other class struggles to meet its needs with limited resources. Gradually, good education, improved health, and quality of life become linked to economic status. Thus, the gap between wealth and poverty is not limited to income alone, but also becomes visible in opportunities and quality of life.

This does not mean that government systems are completely flawless. Problems such as corruption, staff shortages, lack of accountability, misuse of resources, and administrative negligence exist within government institutions. However, the solution to these shortcomings is not to weaken government institutions or hand them over to private hands. The need is to reform government institutions, ensuring transparency, modern technology, adequate budgets, and effective accountability. If a government hospital is not functioning properly, the solution is not to close it, but to improve its staff, medicines, equipment, and management. If the quality of education in government schools is poor, the solution should be to strengthen the public education system.

In a vast and diverse country like India, the role of government institutions is even more crucial. A large population has limited incomes and cannot afford high market prices. The public distribution system, government hospitals, government schools, public transport, and government telecommunications services are part of this social responsibility. Public enterprises like BSNL should also be made competitive through modern technology, improved networks, and adequate investment. The public sector's objective should not only be to make profits, but also to provide reliable services to citizens at reasonable prices.

The government should establish clear rules for private companies. Controlling monopoly tendencies, protecting consumer rights, ensuring fair tariffs, quality service, and transparency are essential. Even in areas where private participation may be useful, public interest must remain paramount. Private companies have the right to profit, but not to take unfair advantage of citizens' compulsions.

Today, we need to understand the difference between the allure of freebies and genuine public interest. As consumers, we must also increase our awareness. Just because a service is cheap doesn't necessarily mean it's superior. We must also consider what we're relying on, how realistic the market options are, and how our basic needs are being met.

Development cannot simply mean the expansion of large companies, the growing size of markets, and the accumulation of private wealth. True development is when even the poorest children receive a good education, the needy receive timely medical care, clean water and electricity reach every home, and communication facilities are accessible to every citizen.

> **"Infrastructure is not a corporate privilege, but a citizen's right. Instead of considering privatization the only path to development, strengthening public systems is the need of the hour. Because in a system where profit outweighs human well-being, social justice becomes merely a slogan."**
> **— Dr. Satyavan Saurabh**

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Traffic Chaos Needs Urgent Action

Through your paper, I wish to highlight the growing traffic chaos in our city. Every day, commuters waste hours in long jams due to poor road planning, illegal parking and broken signals. Students miss classes and workers miss work. Authorities must improve public transport, repair roads and enforce rules strictly. Only planned action can save our time, fuel and patience.
– Vanilla

Stop Online Frauds Now

I write to express concern over the rising online frauds affecting innocent citizens every day. Fraudsters use fake calls, messages and links to steal money from bank accounts. Many victims are elderly people and first-time internet users. Authorities must strengthen cyber security, ensure quick complaint redressal and spread awareness widely. Digital progress must protect people, not expose them to danger.
– Rose

THE SWEET COMFORT OF A SIMPLE COOKIE

In a world obsessed with elaborate, multi-tiered artisanal desserts and overly complicated fusion pastries, there is a quiet rebellion in reaching for a simple cookie. Unpretentious, portable, and universally understood, the cookie has endured across centuries and continents not through culinary theatrics, but through sheer, reliable comfort. Whether it is a crisp, cardamom-scented nankhatai paired with evening chai or a warm, gooey chocolate chip biscuit fresh out of the oven, this humble bake holds an unmatched power to pause a busy day.

The beauty of the cookie lies in its democratic nature. Unlike a delicate soufflé or a tempered chocolate sculpture that demands professional equipment and clinical precision, cookies are born in home kitchens. A basic combination of butter, sugar, flour, and a leavening agent acts as a blank canvas for endless cultural expression. In India, bakery biscuits—from buttery Osmania biscuits in Hyderabad to crunchy Shrewsbury biscuits in Pune—are woven into the daily rhythm of hospitality. Offering a plate of biscuits alongside tea is an unspoken gesture of warmth, welcoming guests without demanding formality.

Yet, beneath this comforting



exterior lies a fascinating science. Baking the ideal cookie is an exercise in controlled chemistry. Swapping granulated white sugar for dark brown sugar introduces molasses, transforming a crisp snap into a chewy, caramel-infused bite. Melted butter yields a dense, fudgy centre, while creamed butter traps air for a lighter, cake-like crumb. Even the resting period of the dough matters; letting it chill for twenty-four hours allows the flour to hydrate fully and the flavours to deepen, proving that patience is often the most vital ingredient in the mixing bowl.

In recent years, the cookie has experienced a dramatic reinvention. Boutique bakeries and home bakers alike have elevated it from an everyday tea-time companion to a luxury indulgence. Thick, New York-style cookies stuffed with molten Nutella, matcha white chocolate blends, and sea-salt-flaked tahini creations now dominate social media feeds. While these gourmet iterations are undeniably delicious, their popularity also highlights a subtle shift in how we consume comfort food—turning an accessible everyday treat into an occasional, decadent spectacle.

Ultimately, however, trends cannot overshadow the timeless appeal of the classic cookie. Its enduring legacy is tied to memory rather than novelty. It is the aroma of vanilla and toasted butter drifting from the kitchen on a rainy afternoon, the shared tin passed around during long train journeys, and the quiet satisfaction of dipping a crisp biscuit into hot tea just long enough before it breaks.

As culinary fashions continue to evolve, the cookie remains a steadfast reminder that perfection in food rarely requires complexity. Sometimes, the most memorable gastronomic experiences come wrapped in a golden-brown, slightly imperfect circle, best enjoyed warm and shared with good company.

— ANNA B.

MORE THAN THIRST QUENCHERS: THE STORY IN EVERY SIP

Look at the beverage in front of you right now. Whether it is a steaming mug of dark roast coffee, a crystal-clear glass of water, or a complex, barrel-aged cocktail, you are holding far more than mere hydration. Beverages are one of the most defining aspects of human culture, acting as essential fuel, potent medicine, comforting ritual, and sophisticated art form all rolled into one.

The evolution of beverages is a mirror reflecting our own history. Our ancestors, driven by primal necessity, located and protected vital sources of fresh water. But soon, we began innovating. Neolithic cultures discovered how to ferment grains and fruits, creating alcoholic beverages that

"A beverage is not just something to drink; it is a tangible connection to the global community, a taste of history, and a simple, daily pleasure that enriches the human experience."

— SHIVA

became central to religious ceremonies, socialization, and nutrition. Across Asia, the simple act of boiling water for safety evolved into the highly refined arts of the tea ceremony, transforming a necessity



into a meditative cultural pillar. Similarly, the discovery of coffee in Ethiopia, initially used to sustain Sufi mystics during long prayers, grew into a global commodity that fueled the Enlightenment and built modern urban life.

Beyond their historical footprint, beverages operate as vital economic engines. The coffee supply chain alone supports millions of farmers across the globe, linking highland growers in Colombia with consumers in bustling Tokyo cafes. The international wine trade shapes entire landscapes, preserving traditions and ecosystems in places like Bordeaux and Napa. These industries are not just about commerce; they are about stewardship of the land and the preservation of specific, often generations-old, methods of cultivation and production.

In the modern era, our relationship with beverages has become intensely personal and polarized. On one side, there is a growing global health awareness. We are increasingly scrutinizing the massive consumption of sugary sodas and energy drinks, linking them to public health crises. This has spurred a dynamic revolution in the non-alcoholic sector, where craft breweries and distilleries are now producing sophisticated "spirit-free" cocktails and functional tonics, proving that a celebration drink need not contain alcohol to be complex and satisfying.

Simultaneously, the artisanal movement has elevated the sensory experience of even the simplest drinks. Specialty coffee is no longer just caffeine delivery; it is a nuanced exploration of terroir, varietal, and roast profile. The craft beer movement has transformed a simple staple into a diverse category of complex ales and lagers. Even water has been elevated, with sommeliers guiding consumers through the subtle mineral differences of bottled spring water from across the planet.

Ultimately, beverages are the great connectors. We raise a glass in celebration at weddings, we pour tea as a gesture of sympathy, and we meet over coffee to build community. Every time we take a sip, we participate in an ancient narrative of discovery, culture, and craftsmanship.

— SHIVA

THE COMPLEX LEGACY OF THE MODERN PISTOL

Few mechanical inventions carry as much historical weight, cultural symbolism, and contemporary debate as the pistol. Compact enough to fit in a palm yet powerful enough to alter the course of history, the handgun has evolved over five centuries from a crude, single-shot black-powder tube into a marvel of precision engineering. Today, it sits at the intersection of law enforcement, competitive sport, personal defence, and intense public policy discourse.

The story of the pistol is fundamentally a story of miniaturisation and mechanical ingenuity. Early hand cannons and wheel-lock pistols of the sixteenth century were cumbersome, unreliable, and largely restricted to cavalry officers and aristocrats. The nineteenth century marked a dramatic turning point with the advent of Samuel Colt's revolving cylinder, which gave shooters multiple rounds without reloading. Soon after, the transition from black powder to smokeless propellant paved the way for semi-automatic designs. Pioneers like John Browning and Georg Luger introduced magazine-fed pistols that harnessed recoil energy to cycle ammunition automatically, establishing the foundational architecture that still defines modern sidearms.

Beyond its military and law enforcement applications, the pistol has carved out a distinct space in global sport. Olympic shooting events—such as the 10-metre air pistol and 25-metre rapid-fire pistol—demand extraordinary mental discipline, breath control, and neuromuscular steadiness rather than brute force. In countries like India, competitive pistol shooting has become a premier Olympic discipline, producing world-class athletes whose precision on the firing line rivals the focus of chess grandmasters. Here, the pistol is treated strictly as a finely calibrated sporting instrument, governed by rigorous safety protocols and international regulations.

At the same time, the civilian ownership and regulation of pistols remain among the most contentious issues worldwide. Because a handgun is easily concealed, it occupies a unique category in firearm legislation across different nations. In jurisdictions with strict gun control laws, including India under the Arms Act, acquiring a pistol licence is an exhaustive process involving background checks, police verification, and strict limits on ammunition. Conversely, in nations with broader gun ownership rights, the pistol is frequently framed around the constitutional right to self-defence, sparking ongoing debates over public safety, crime prevention, and regulatory oversight.

Culturally, the pistol has been endlessly mythologised by cinema, literature, and popular media. From the



dusty standoffs of classic Westerns to the sleek, suppressed sidearms of espionage thrillers, fiction often reduces the pistol to a dramatic prop. In reality, responsible handling requires extensive training, mechanical maintenance, and an unwavering adherence to safety rules—a stark contrast to the effortless, consequence-free portrayal often seen on screen.

Ultimately, the pistol remains a profound study in contrasts. It is simultaneously a triumph of metallurgy and ergonomics, an Olympic sporting tool, a standard-issue instrument for state security, and a focal point of legal and ethical scrutiny. Understanding its place in the modern world requires looking past popular myths to examine the engineering, the strict responsibilities of ownership, and the societal frameworks designed to govern its use.

— SHARON FAUSTINA J.

THE DRAMATIC ALLURE OF THE SPIDER LILY

Few flowers command attention with the theatrical intensity of the spider lily. With long, curved petals that flare outward like delicate legs and prominent stamens reaching dramatically into the air, the spider lily looks less like a conventional garden bloom and more like an intricate botanical firework. Belonging primarily to the Lycoris and Hymenocallis genera, these striking perennials have captivated gardeners, artists, and storytellers across continents for centuries, offering a compelling blend of architectural beauty and rich cultural symbolism.

In the botanical world, the spider lily is celebrated for its resilience and unusual growth cycle. Many varieties, particularly the red spider lily (Lycoris radiata), are affectionately known as "surprise lilies" or "hurricane lilies." They spend much of the year completely hidden beneath the soil as dormant bulbs, only to shoot up bare, leafless stems after late summer rains, bursting into vibrant crimson, golden, or snowy white blooms almost overnight. Their foliage emerges only after the flowers have faded, creating an intriguing natural rhythm that sets them apart from traditional herbaceous borders. In tropical and subtropical climates, including parts of India, the white beach spider lily (Hymenocallis littoralis) thrives effortlessly in coastal gardens and monsoon-drenched landscapes, filling humid evenings with a sweet, vanilla-like fragrance.

Beyond their visual drama, spider lilies carry profound cultural and mythological weight, particularly across



East Asia. In Japanese folklore, the vivid red higanbana blooms around the autumn equinox, marking the transition of seasons and lining the edges of rice paddies and cemeteries. Because the bulbs contain toxic alkaloids that deter burrowing animals, farmers historically planted them around graveyards and farmlands to protect crops and resting places. Over time, this practical function merged with Buddhist traditions, associating the flower with farewells, reincarnation, and the boundary between the earthly realm and the afterlife. Far from being merely morbid, this symbolism imbues the bloom with a poignant, bittersweet grace—a reminder of impermanence and the cyclical nature of life.

For modern landscape designers and home gardeners, spider lilies offer effortless sophistication. They require minimal maintenance once established, tolerating heat, humidity, and periods of drought with remarkable hardiness. Planted in drifts beneath deciduous trees or along garden pathways, they bring sudden, unexpected bursts of colour during transitional months when many summer annuals begin to tire. Their architectural form also makes them prized specimens for floral arrangements, where a single stem can anchor a minimalist vase with sculptural elegance.

Yet, the true magic of the spider lily lies in its element of surprise. In an age where agriculture and horticulture often strive for year-round predictability, this flower insists on its own mysterious timetable. It teaches patience, rewarding observers with sudden, fleeting brilliance just when the garden seems quietest.

Whether admired for its bold geometry, its resilient spirit, or the quiet poetry of its folklore, the spider lily stands as a captivating testament to nature's flair for the dramatic.

— ALAN B.

BEYOND THE SPARKLE: THE ENDURING ALLURE OF DIAMONDS

Few objects on Earth command as much reverence, desire, and fascination as the diamond. Forged deep within the Earth's mantle under crushing heat and immense pressure over billions of years, this crystalline form of pure carbon has travelled from ancient riverbeds to the centre of global luxury. Yet, the story of the diamond is far more complex than a simple tale of geological marvel; it is an intricate tapestry of cultural symbolism, master craftsmanship, and shifting modern values.

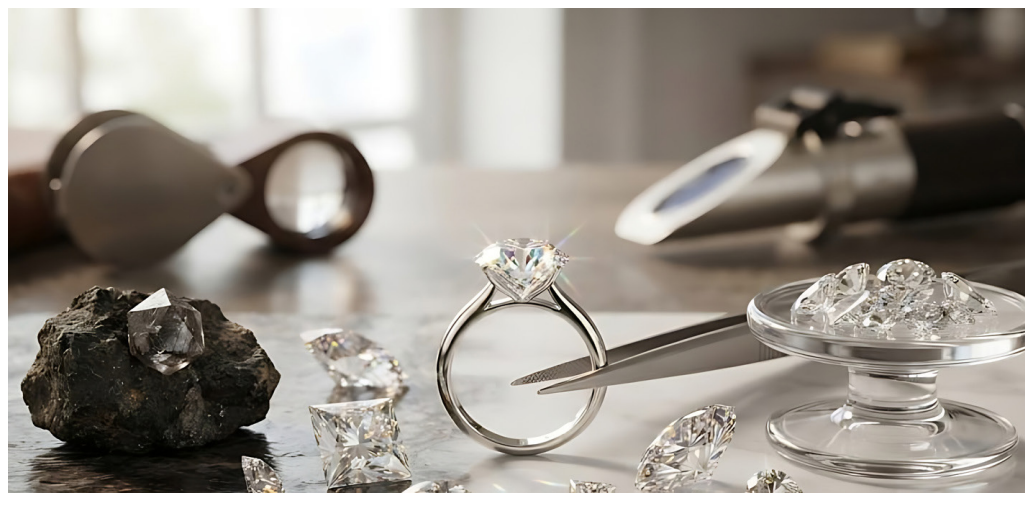
"As the industry evolves to embrace sustainability and ethics, the diamond continues to shine, reflecting not just light, but the changing ideals of the world that treasures it."

MONU

India holds a singular place in this narrative. Long before mines were discovered in South Africa or Russia, the alluvial deposits of the Golconda region were the world's sole source of fine diamonds. Legendary stones like the Koh-i-Noor, the Hope Diamond, and the Darya-i-Noor emerged from Indian soil, shaping royal treasuries and imperial histories across continents. Even today, that legacy thrives in a modern industrial avatar: Surat, in Gujarat, cuts and polishes nearly nine out of every ten diamonds sold globally, cementing India's status as the beating heart of the diamond trade.

Historically, diamonds were prized as talismans of invincibility, worn by monarchs into battle to ward off harm. Their transformation into the ultimate emblem of romantic devotion is a remarkably recent phenomenon, engineered through brilliant twentieth-century marketing that wedded eternal love to an indestructible stone. Today, a solitaire ring marks milestones, anniversaries, and lifelong promises, carrying emotional weight that far exceeds its physical mass.

However, the contemporary diamond industry stands at a profound crossroads. Consumers today are no longer content with mere brilliance; they demand transparency and ethical accountability. The dark legacy of conflict diamonds—stones mined in war zones to finance armed



insurgencies—forced the global trade to reckon with its supply chains. While initiatives like the Kimberley Process sought to stem the flow of illicit stones, younger buyers increasingly look for verifiable provenance, wanting assurance that their symbol of love did not come at a human or environmental cost.

This demand for conscience, coupled with technological breakthroughs, has ushered in the era of lab-grown diamonds. Chemically, physically, and optically identical to their mined counterparts, these stones are cultivated in controlled environments within weeks rather than millennia. Offering a significantly lower price point and a smaller ecological footprint, lab-grown diamonds have democratised access to large, flawless gems while disrupting traditional luxury pricing models. Traditionalists still champion the poetic rarity of a natural stone formed by the Earth itself, creating a fascinating duality in the market between geological heritage and scientific innovation.

Ultimately, whether unearthed from ancient kimberlite pipes or grown inside a plasma reactor, the diamond's true power lies in human projection. On its own, it is simply carbon arranged in a rigid lattice, prized for its unmatched hardness and ability to refract light into fire. It is we who infuse it with meaning—turning a mineral into a metaphor for permanence, achievement, and affection.

— MONU

Quick Read

Chhatarpur reports 786 new TB cases in 45 days

CHHATARPUR

Chhatarpur district in Madhya Pradesh has identified 786 new tuberculosis (TB) cases in just 45 days, raising public health concerns across the Bundelkhand region. The district recorded 639 cases in October and another 147 during the first 17 days of November, taking the total number of notified patients to 7,063 since January 1. Health officials attributed the increase partly to expanded screening campaigns using handheld X-ray machines and special medical camps across 549 gram panchayats in eight blocks. Authorities aim to screen five to six lakh people annually. Malnutrition, poor dietary intake, tobacco and alcohol consumption, and exposure to industrial dust have been identified as factors increasing vulnerability. The state aims to eliminate TB by 2030.



Six held in Hyderabad LPG refilling racket

HYDERABAD

Hyderabad Police arrested six people for allegedly operating an illegal LPG refilling racket at a scrap shop near Bapughat in Langer House. A joint team recovered 46 full domestic gas cylinders and equipment worth approximately ₹4 lakh during the raid. The accused allegedly transferred gas from large domestic cylinders into smaller 3 kg and 5 kg cylinders using improvised kits for black-market sales. Police also seized 35 empty 3 kg cylinders, one empty 5 kg cylinder, seven refilling kits, a weighing machine and two trolley autos. Those arrested included local delivery personnel and gas agency suppliers. A case was registered under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, Essential Commodities Act and Explosives Act. Police warned that unauthorised LPG handling could cause serious fires and explosions.

MP Cabinet approves industrial parks, ₹2,700 Cr Projects

Madhya Pradesh Cabinet approved multiple industrial parks, renewable energy projects and infrastructure investments to attract businesses and generate employment across the state.

NEEMUCH

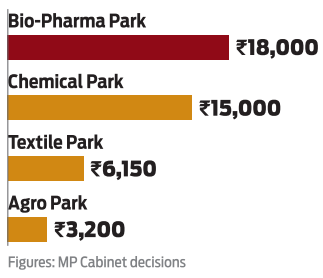
The Madhya Pradesh Cabinet, chaired by Chief Minister Mohan Yadav, on Wednesday approved the development of several industrial parks to attract investments and generate employment across the state. The meeting, held at Gandhi Sagar, also cleared development projects and financial allocations exceeding Rs 2,700 crore.

Among the major decisions was the approval of an Agro Park spanning 178 hectares at Basai village in Mandsaur district. The project is expected to attract investments of Rs 3,200 crore and create employment for more than 14,000 people.



The Cabinet meeting at Gandhi Sagar in Mandsaur district on Wednesday

Investment expected
In crore, by park



Figures: MP Cabinet decisions

The Cabinet also approved a 3,500-acre Chemical Park at Kurlasi village in Mandsaur under the Centre's BHAVYA Scheme. The project is expected to bring investments worth Rs 15,000 crore and generate one lakh employment opportunities. A Bio-Pharma Park covering 453 hectares in the Ratlam Investment Region was also cleared, with an estimated investment of Rs 18,000 crore and 25,000 jobs.

In Dhar district, a textile and related industries park at Bhainsola village received approval. Spread across 341.10 hectares, it is expected to attract Rs 6,150 crore in investments and create 35,000 jobs. The Cabinet also sanctioned a Deep-Tech Research and Innovation Park in Ujjain at a cost of Rs 237 crore to promote research in space science, agricultural technology and emerging technologies.

Other decisions included the second phase of the Telecom Manufacturing Zone in Gwalior and a multi-product industrial area in Pandhurna. The government also approved the formation of MP MSME Limited with an initial provision of Rs 10 crore. The infrastructure development scheme for MSMEs will continue for five years with an estimated allocation of Rs 1,507 crore.

In the renewable energy sector, the Cabinet cleared an 800 MW battery energy storage system and a 200 MW floating solar project at Omkareshwar. It also approved a Forest Zoo and Rescue Centre in Ujjain at an estimated cost of Rs 855 crore, expected to generate 6,000 direct and indirect jobs.

Amit Shah to address anti-terror conference today

NEW DELHI

Union Home Minister Amit Shah will inaugurate the sixth edition of the Anti-Terrorism Conference 2026 in New Delhi on Thursday, November 19, and address officials on the theme of cross-border terrorism. The two-day conference is being organised by the National Investigation Agency (NIA) under the Ministry of Home Affairs.

The meeting will bring together senior officials from central and state security agencies, police departments and experts from legal, forensic and technological fields. Union Ministers of State for Home Affairs Nityanand Rai and Bandi Sanjay Kumar, the Union Home Secretary, the Secretary of Research and Analysis Wing (R&AW) and the Director General of NIA are also expected to attend.

The discussions will focus on sharing operational experiences, adopting emerging technologies to tackle terror networks and improving international legal cooperation. Participants will also examine strategies to dismantle terror ecosystems operating across different regions of the country.

The conference will review the progress made on recommendations adopted during last year's meeting. The previous edition highlighted the importance of coordination between central and state agencies, particularly in tackling cybercrime and financial terrorism. It also called for a standardised Anti-Terror Squad (ATS) structure to strengthen intelligence sharing and coordinated operations.



Union Home Minister Amit Shah

The Anti-Terrorism Conference 2026 will bring security officials and experts together to discuss cross-border terrorism and strengthen India's counter-terrorism strategies.

MP launches ₹40.5-crore eco-tourism projects at Gandhi Sagar

NEEMUCH

Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav on Wednesday laid the foundation stones for five eco-tourism projects worth Rs 40.50 crore at Gandhi Sagar, aiming to strengthen tourism infrastructure, attract visitors and create employment opportunities. The projects will be developed on Malasari Island and in Kanghatti village.

The Chief Minister, accompanied by Cabinet ministers, performed traditional prayers and aarti on the banks of the Chambal River. The projects are part of the Gandhi Sagar Eco-Tourism Development initiative, which seeks to establish the region as a major tourism destination.

Yadav said the government organised a Destination Cabinet meeting at Gandhi Sagar to highlight the area's natural beauty and tourism potential. He added that the development of a tent city and expansion of eco-tourism activities would attract more visitors and provide fresh opportunities for local communities.

Highlighting the region's wildlife diversity, the Chief Minister referred to the cheetah project, endangered vultures and several bird species.

He also discussed the Gandhi Sagar Pumped Hydro Storage Project, which aims to increase electricity generation capacity nearly 20 times by transferring water between two reservoirs.

Yadav said the project was completed in three years and would strengthen the state's power availability. He also highlighted Madhya Pradesh's river network, noting that more than 250 rivers flow through the state. Referring to the Chambal's ancient name, Charmanwati, he stressed the importance of conserving water and protecting natural resources.



Gandhi Sagar: on the Chambal in Mandsaur district

TN police launch online complaint facility

CHENNAI

Tamil Nadu Director General of Police (DGP) Mahesh Kumar Agarwal on Wednesday launched an online complaint registration facility, allowing citizens to submit complaints without visiting police stations. He also assured strict action against police personnel if investigations establish lapses in recent custodial incidents reported in Thoothukudi and Madurai.

The new electronic Community Service Register (e-CSR) facility is available through the official Tamil Nadu Police website. Complainants will receive electronic acknowledgement receipts after submitting their complaints.

Agarwal said senior officers would monitor complaints converted into First Information Reports (FIRs) and the subsequent action taken. The department is also planning separate online portals for complaints involving mobile phone thefts, two-wheeler thefts and snatching incidents.

TN police in numbers

murders, Jan 1-Nov 15 (1,421 a year earlier)
1,306
rise in drug-related cases
74%
drug tablets seized (1.45 lakh earlier)
4.85 lakh

Addressing the recent custodial incidents, the DGP said both cases had been transferred to the Crime Branch-Criminal Investigation Department (CBCID), with judicial enquiries initiated. CCTV footage from the police stations is available, and strict action will follow if any wrongdoing is established.

He also shared crime statistics, stating that Tamil Nadu recorded 1,306 murders between January 1 and November 15 this year, compared with 1,421 during the corresponding period last year, marking a decline of 115 cases.

On the anti-drug campaign, Agarwal reported increased enforcement, with drug-related cases rising by 74 per cent and arrests increasing by 73 per cent.

The DGP said an Anti-Narcotics Task Force had been established to tackle drug trafficking, particularly along the state's extensive coastline.

Joshi urges Jain Development Corporation creation

NEW DELHI

Union Minister Pralhad Joshi has formally written to Chief Minister D. K. Shivakumar, urging the Karnataka government to establish a dedicated Jain Development Corporation. Highlighting the community's rich contributions to Kannada art, literature, and heritage, Joshi called for urgent action to address the long-standing needs of over 20 lakh Jains living across the state, particularly those facing economic and educational struggles in rural areas.

In his letter, Joshi pointed out that 'Rashtrasanta' Acharya Shri Gunadharanandi Munimaharaj has decided to launch a peaceful Satyagraha to press these demands, drawing widespread backing from the Akhila Bharata Bhattaraka Jain Matha Parishat and community members.

The letter outlines five key proposals for the community's upliftment. First is setting up a separate corporation for social and economic progress. Second is introducing legal protection and special facilities for Jain monks and nuns traveling on foot during religious pilgrimages. Third is providing financial aid for devotees visiting the sacred Shri Sammed Shikharji shrine. Fourth is preserving ancient Jain heritage sites across Karnataka, and fifth is establishing student hostels and scholarships at the district and taluk levels.



Joshi urged state ministers to treat these appeals with utmost seriousness and respond promptly to the peaceful protest by fulfilling these legitimate community aspirations.

SC issues notice to lawyer on contempt plea over remarks against CJI Surya Kant

NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday issued a notice on a petition seeking contempt proceedings against advocate Pravin Singhal for allegedly making disparaging remarks about Chief Justice of India (CJI) Surya Kant during an open court hearing on November 16. The petition was filed by the Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA), which sought legal action over the alleged comments.

A Bench comprising Justices Dipankar Datta, Joymalya Bagchi and V. Mohana observed that a prima facie case had been made out to proceed against the advocate. The notice seeks a response from Singhal regarding the allegations raised in the petition.

> **"The majesty of the court cannot be compromised."**
> — **Tushar Mehta,** Solicitor General

The Bench also noted that the SCBA had submitted written consent from the Attorney General for India, as required under Section 15(1)(b) of the Contempt of Courts Act, 1971. The provision requires the Attorney General's consent when a private individual or organisation seeks to initiate criminal contempt proceedings.

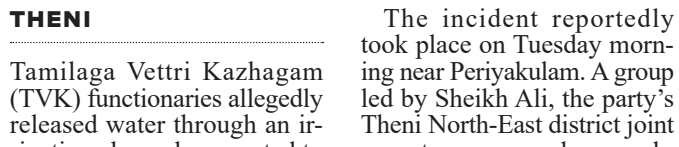
Solicitor General Tushar Mehta supported the association's petition and stressed the importance of maintaining the authority and dignity of the judiciary. During the proceedings, he submitted that "the majesty of the court cannot be compromised".

The case comes amid several instances in recent months in which the Supreme Court has considered contempt proceedings over allegedly derogatory remarks directed at the Chief Justice and the judiciary.

The SCBA's petition seeks to ensure that conduct inside courtrooms remains consistent with established legal standards and respect for judicial institutions. The court's decision to issue notice indicates that it has found sufficient preliminary grounds to examine the allegations.

However, the notice does not establish that the advocate is guilty of contempt. The matter will proceed after the response is considered by the Bench, which will determine the further course of action in accordance with the law.

TVK workers accused of releasing dam water without nod



The Sothuparai dam (left), and the group at the irrigation channel

THENI

Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) functionaries allegedly released water through an irrigation channel connected to the Sothuparai dam in Tamil Nadu's Theni district without obtaining official permission, triggering a police investigation and political criticism.

The incident reportedly took place on Tuesday morning near Periyakulam. A group led by Sheikh Ali, the party's Theni North-East district joint secretary, opened a newly constructed irrigation channel to supply water to nearly 1,000 acres of farmland.

The functionaries later shared photographs and videos of the water release on social media, claiming that the action had been carried out under the guidance of Periyakulam MLA Sabari Aingaran. However, the release had not received authorisation from the concerned government officials.

The incident prompted a police complaint, with authorities initiating an investigation into the alleged unauthorised release of dam water.

Amma Makkal Munnetra Kazhagam (AMMK) general secretary TTV Dhinakaran criticised the incident and demanded action against those responsible.

NEET PAPER LEAK

Court orders charges against 14 in NEET-UG paper leak case

NEW DELHI

The Rouse Avenue Court on Wednesday ordered the framing of charges against 14 accused, including three subject experts, in the NEET-UG 2026 question paper leak case investigated by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI). The formal framing of charges has been scheduled for November 21.

Special CBI Judge Ajay Gupta directed that all 14 accused be physically produced before the court on Saturday. The court also ordered that the recording of prosecution evidence begin on November 25 and continue on a day-to-day basis. Charges will also be framed under the Copyright Act.

Charge sheets filed

The CBI registered the case in May 2026 following allegations of question paper leakage. It filed its main charge sheet against 13 accused in July and submitted a supplementary charge sheet against the 14th accused, Sheshrao Bajrang Suryavanshi, on September 2. The court took cognisance of the main charge sheet on August 12.

According to the investigation, the accused allegedly worked together to circulate examination papers covering all three subjects. The charges include criminal conspiracy, cheating, criminal breach of trust and destruction of evidence under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, along with provisions of the Prevention of Corruption Act and the Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Act, 2024.

The court also examined the alleged involvement of three subject experts, Manisha Mandhare, P V Kulkarni and Manisha Sanjay Hawaldar, who were engaged to translate examination papers. They allegedly shared confidential examination material with other accused for monetary benefits, despite submitting written undertakings against disclosing such information.

The court observed that some accused allegedly destroyed examination-related documents and electronic devices to remove evidence.

The case so far

- **MAY 2026** — CBI registers the case
- **JULY** — Charge sheet against 13 accused
- **NOV 21** — Formal framing of charges
- **NOV 25** — Prosecution evidence begins

Quick Read



6 arrested as Hyderabad police bust gambling den

HYDERABAD

Hyderabad Police arrested six people and seized ₹9.3 lakh during a raid on an illegal gambling den in Mailardevpally on November 16. Three other suspects reportedly escaped. The premises in Nadeem Colony had been heavily secured with barbed-wire fencing, guard dogs, CCTV cameras and informers stationed along nearby routes to alert organisers about police movements. Six mobile phones and playing cards were also seized, taking the total value of recovered items to ₹9.9 lakh. Police identified Khadeer Khan alias Sikka Khadeer as the main organiser, who allegedly collected commissions from gambling games. He had reportedly been involved in nine previous criminal cases. Six arrested individuals were handed over to Mailardevpally Police for further legal proceedings.

Codeine cough syrup worth ₹30 lakh seized in Agartala

AGARTALA

Police seized eight cartons of codeine phosphate-based cough syrup worth approximately ₹30 lakh and detained three people in Tripura's Agartala ahead of the ongoing civic elections. The consignment was recovered from a vehicle intercepted near Soni Temple on Jogendramura Road after police noticed it attempting to flee. A strong medicinal smell from the cartons raised suspicion. An Executive Magistrate, Drug Inspector and two independent witnesses were present during the search. Police confirmed that the seized substance was contraband and said a case was being registered under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act. Further investigation is underway to trace its source and intended destination.

2 toddlers die after snakebite in Tamil Nadu

KALLAKURICHI

Two young children died and their mother was hospitalised after a suspected snakebite at their home in Mookanur near Sankarapuram, Tamil Nadu, early Tuesday. The victims, identified as three-year-old Darshini and one-and-a-half-year-old Janani, were sleeping with their mother, Pushpa, when a snake, suspected to be a common krait, entered their asbestos-roofed house and bit them. The children succumbed to their injuries, while Pushpa was admitted to Kallakurichi Government Medical College and Hospital for treatment.

India develops first indigenous H5N1 bird flu vaccine

India has developed its first indigenous H5N1 bird flu vaccine, aiming to protect poultry, support farmers and strengthen disease-control measures nationwide.



500+ H5N1 and H5N8 outbreaks in India since 2006

20%+ of India's poultry at risk in a major outbreak

479 deaths in 1,003 human H5N1 cases since 2003 (WHO)

NEW DELHI

Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan will dedicate India's first indigenously developed vaccine against the H5N1 (Clade 2.3.2.1a) bird flu virus to the nation on November 20 at the ICAR-National Institute of High Security Animal Diseases (NIHSAD) in Bhopal. The vaccine has been developed by scientists at the institute to protect poultry against highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI). Commonly known as bird flu, HPAI is a highly contagious disease affecting chickens and other birds. Outbreaks can cause mortality among infected birds, resulting in major economic losses for poultry farmers through mass culling, trade restrictions and disruption of poultry markets.

Since the disease was first detected in India in 2006, the country has recorded more than 500 combined outbreaks of H5N1 and H5N8 subtypes. According to the information released, a major outbreak could put more than 20 per cent of India's poultry population at risk. The economic consequences could also affect farmers' livelihoods, poultry prices and the wider economy.

The H5N1 strain, particularly clade 2.3.2.1a, has been responsible for several outbreaks among chickens. Infections have also been reported in other animal species, including mammals. The virus has raised public health concerns following reported human infections.

According to the World Health Organisation, 1,003 human H5N1 infections have been reported across 25 countries since 2003, resulting in 479 deaths.

Until now, no specific commercial vaccine was available to protect against the H5N1 clade 2.3.2.1a strain circulating in India. The newly developed indigenous vaccine is expected to address this gap and strengthen the country's poultry disease-control measures.

The launch

WHEN	November 20
WHERE	ICAR-NIHSAD, Bhopal
BY	Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan
AGAINST	H5N1 clade 2.3.2.1a in poultry

Telangana to offer ₹5 lakh insurance cover to 1 crore families



Telangana's Indiramma Family Insurance scheme will offer ₹5 lakh coverage to one crore families, consolidating existing government insurance schemes under one umbrella.

HYDERABAD

Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy has announced that the state government's Indiramma Family Insurance scheme will provide ₹5 lakh insurance coverage to one crore families across the state. The initiative aims to strengthen financial security for economically weaker households, including workers employed under the rural employment guarantee programme.

The Chief Minister directed officials to bring existing insurance schemes operated by various government departments under a single umbrella to ensure wider coverage and simplify implementation. He also instructed them to ensure that no individual currently receiving government insurance benefits is excluded from the new scheme.

According to officials, existing schemes provide life insurance coverage of up to ₹2 lakh and accidental insurance benefits of up to ₹10 lakh. Revanth Reddy proposed increasing the life insurance coverage from ₹2 lakh to ₹5 lakh under the Indiramma scheme while retaining the existing accidental insurance benefits.

The Chief Minister is scheduled to launch the application process at a public meeting in Siddipet on November 19. He instructed officials to make application forms available at the village level and conduct extensive awareness campaigns to inform eligible families about the scheme.

During a review meeting at his Jubilee Hills residence, the Chief Minister also discussed the distribution of Indiramma Sarees. He directed officials to ensure that every eligible woman receives a saree and that supplies are dispatched to all districts without delay.

Chief Secretary Sanjay Jaju was instructed to hold a video conference with district Collectors regarding both initiatives.

Centre plans 89 more Ayushman Bharat packages for public hospitals

112 treatment packages proposed for public hospitals, up from 23

NEW DELHI

The Union government is planning to expand the number of treatment packages reserved for public hospitals under Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY) from the existing 23 to 112, according to National Health Authority (NHA) sources. The proposed expansion aims to improve access to healthcare and strengthen government hospitals.

The additional 89 packages will primarily cover common medical conditions and routine surgical procedures that can be treated at Community Health Centres (CHCs) and Sub-Divisional Hospitals (SDHs). These include severe anaemia, hypertension, acute bronchitis, urinary tract infections, diabetes-related complications and gastrointestinal illnesses.

Closer to home

The proposed list also covers procedures such as hysterectomy, circumcision, biopsies and treatment for haemorrhoids, hydrocele, cysts and lipomas. Screening for diabetic retinopathy and glaucoma has also been included. The initiative is expected to benefit people in rural and underserved areas by reducing long-distance travel, treatment expenses and loss of wages.

According to officials, the expansion will also help government hospitals make better use of their existing infrastructure and medical staff. Under PM-JAY, hospitals receive reimbursements for providing cashless treatment to eligible beneficiaries. These funds can be used to purchase equipment, medicines and medical supplies, improve infrastructure and support additional healthcare staff.

States to weigh in

Since 2019, 23 packages under Obstetrics and Gynaecology and Mental Health specialities have been reserved for public healthcare facilities. Building on this arrangement, the NHA issued an Office Memorandum on October 13, inviting State Health Agencies to submit suggestions by November 25.

The revised framework is proposed to take effect from December 1, 2026, after considering feedback from states. States may reduce the number of reserved packages with prior government approval, depending on available infrastructure and medical personnel.

The proposed expansion seeks to bring essential treatments closer to patients while strengthening public healthcare facilities.

Cyclone Akvan puts north Andhra, south Odisha on alert



BHUBANESWAR

Odisha has intensified its disaster preparedness after Cyclone Akvan changed track and moved north-northwestwards towards the coasts of North Andhra Pradesh, Yanam and South Odisha. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has warned of a possible landfall by noon on November 20, prompting authorities to place several districts on alert.

According to the IMD, the system is likely to cross the coast between Machilipatnam and Puri as a severe cyclonic storm. It may bring maximum sustained winds of 90-100 kmph, with gusts reaching 110 kmph. The revised track has raised concerns across coastal areas of both Andhra Pradesh and Odisha, particularly over the possibility of strong winds and extremely heavy rainfall.

IMD Director General Mrutyunjay Mohapatra said the likely landfall point could be anywhere between Kalingapatnam in Andhra Pradesh and Gopalpur in Odisha. The warning has been extended up to Puri, where strong winds and rough sea conditions are expected. He also noted that some weather models indicate a possible recurving of the system, making continuous monitoring necessary.

The Odisha government has stepped up precautionary measures, including evacuation preparations and the deployment of disaster response personnel. Fourteen districts have been placed on alert in view of the expected impact. Five teams of the 3rd Battalion of the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) have been mobilised to different districts to assist with rescue and relief operations.



Akvan may cross the coast between Machilipatnam and Puri

Authorities are coordinating with district administrations and emergency agencies to ensure readiness in vulnerable coastal areas. Residents have been advised to follow official instructions and remain cautious as the cyclone approaches.

MP scraps two-child rule for govt jobs

BHOPAL



The Madhya Pradesh Cabinet on Wednesday approved the removal of the two-child restriction for government employment, ending a provision in force for nearly 25 years. The decision was taken at the state's ninth destination cabinet meeting at Gandhi Sagar in Mandsaur district.

The cabinet cleared amendments to the Madhya Pradesh Civil Services Rules, 1961, removing the condition that disqualified people with more than two living children from government service. Disciplinary proceedings initiated solely on this ground will also be withdrawn.

Chief Minister Mohan Yadav said the provision had created difficulties for government employees and questioned why public servants should face a restriction that did not apply to society at large. The amendment is expected to provide relief to employees facing action under the earlier rule.

Court seeks police report on Sonia Gandhi voter list complaint

NEW DELHI



The Rouse Avenue Court on Wednesday sought an Action Taken Report (ATR) from the Delhi Police on a complaint alleging that Congress leader Sonia Gandhi's name appeared in electoral rolls before she acquired Indian citizenship in April 1983. Additional Chief Judicial Magistrate Vinod Joshi directed the Station House Officer of IP Estate Police Station to submit the report. The matter has been listed for further hearing on November 28.

The complaint was filed by advocate Vikas Tripathi on August 24, 2025. During Wednesday's proceedings, Tripathi submitted attested copies of electoral rolls from 1980, 1981 and 1983. However, the court directed him to produce the original attested copies for examination. Senior advocate Ajay Burman represented the complainant.

According to the complaint, Sonia Gandhi's name was allegedly included in the electoral roll in 1980, removed in 1982 and added again in 1983. The complainant has questioned the inclusion of her name during the period before she obtained Indian citizenship.

The case so far

- **1980** Name on the electoral roll, the complaint alleges
- **1982** Removed from the roll
- **1983** Added again; Indian citizenship in April
- **AUG 24, 2025** Complaint filed
- **SEPT 21** Sessions Court sends it back to the magistrate
- **NOV 28** Next hearing

The case returned to the magistrate's court after a Sessions Court set aside an earlier order that had refused to direct the registration of an FIR. Special Judge Vishal Gogne allowed Tripathi's revision petition on September 21, observing that the earlier order relied on photocopies of unverified records and lacked adequate reasoning.

The Sessions Court also questioned the magistrate's observations regarding the jurisdiction of the Central Government and the Election Commission in matters connected with citizenship. It directed fresh consideration of the complaint and asked the magistrate to obtain a police status report before passing a reasoned order.

The Sessions Court had noted the allegations concerning the electoral rolls but clarified that it could not decide the complaint itself. The magistrate must examine the documents and submissions before determining the next course of action.

TRICHY HOSPITAL

Vijay to inaugurate 600-bed super speciality hospital in Trichy

TIRUCHIRAPPALLI

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister C Joseph Vijay is scheduled to inaugurate a newly constructed 600-bed super speciality hospital building at Mahatma Gandhi Memorial Government Hospital (MGMGH) in the Puthur area of Tiruchirappalli on November 20. The facility is expected to strengthen healthcare services for patients from several districts across the region.

The project was undertaken to address the growing number of patients visiting the government hospital. Thousands of people from Tiruchirappalli and neighbouring districts, including Karur, Perambalur, Ariyalur and Pudukkottai, depend on the institution for medical treatment. The additional infrastructure is expected to ease overcrowding and improve access to specialised healthcare.

The newly completed building consists of a ground floor and six additional floors, covering approximately 2.10 lakh square feet. Initially estimated at Rs 110 crore, the project cost has increased to Rs 134 crore. The building will accommodate 600 beds and feature modern medical facilities, including an outpatient department, more than 10 operation theatres and emergency treatment units.

With the new facility becoming operational, hospital authorities expect improved patient management, reduced waiting periods and better treatment capacity. The additional beds and specialised facilities are particularly expected to benefit economically weaker sections who travel from neighbouring districts to access advanced government healthcare services.

The hospital building was initiated during the previous DMK government and is now set to be inaugurated by the present Chief Minister. The upcoming ceremony has attracted attention among residents, given the importance of the facility to the region's healthcare network.

Preparations for the November 20 inauguration are underway. Deputy Commissioner of Police Aravind Panavath recently inspected the hospital premises to review security arrangements ahead of Vijay's visit. Trichy City Police are making necessary arrangements to ensure security during the event.

Quick Read

Maharashtra, UP dominate auto sales in July-Sep: SIAM

NEW DELHI

Maharashtra emerged as the largest market for passenger and commercial vehicles, while Uttar Pradesh led sales of two-wheelers and three-wheelers during the second quarter of FY27, according to data released by the Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM) on Wednesday. As India recorded sales of 13.61 lakh passenger vehicles during the July-September quarter, the western region accounted for the highest volume at 4.29 lakh units. Among states and Union Territories, Maharashtra led passenger vehicle sales with 1.65 lakh units during the quarter, followed by Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka.

Air India Express appoints new CEO, effective from Dec 1

NEW DELHI

Air India Express on Wednesday announced the appointment of its Chief Financial Officer, Deepak Rajawat, as the airline's Chief Executive Officer, effective December 1, 2026. Rajawat will take over the top role after leading the airline's finance function and supporting its growth and transformation initiatives during a period of rapid expansion within the Air India group. "The Board of Directors of Air India Express today announced the appointment of Deepak Rajawat as the airline's Chief Executive Officer, effective 1 December 2026," it said.



PHDCCI seeks GST 2.0 reforms to cut compliance burden

NEW DELHI

The PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PHDCCI) on Wednesday recommended a wide-ranging set of reforms under a proposed "GST 2.0" framework aimed at enhancing ease of doing business, reducing compliance burdens and promoting investment across key sectors of the economy. The recommendations were presented during the "GST 2.0 Workshop: From Compliance Burden to Ease of Doing Business", organised by the chamber.

PHDCCI said structural issues related to input tax credit (ITC), inverted duty structures, procedural complexities, tax classification disputes and working capital blockages continue to affect businesses across sectors, including MSMEs, food processing, agriculture, hospitality, aviation, infrastructure, energy and export-oriented industries.He said the objective should be to ensure that GST functions as a true value-added tax system by minimising tax cascading and enabling seamless input tax credit across the production and services value chain. A key proposal relates to rationalising input tax credit provisions.

It has recommended reviewing Section 17(5) of the Central Goods and Services Tax (CGST) Act to permit eligible ITC on civil infrastructure and capital expenditure used in providing taxable business services.

ICMR achieves 100 successful technology transfers

This milestone, achieved in under two years, marks a crucial step in bringing indigenous health research and solutions to the public.

NEW DELHI

The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has completed 100 successful technology transfer deals, marking a major step in commercialising indigenous medical research.

The milestone was announced at the third Health Research Excellence Summit of the Department of Health Research and ICMR, marking 115 years of ICMR's contribution to biomedical research in India.

During the summit, ICMR exchanged 20 licensing agreements covering eight technologies with nine Indian companies. This took the cumulative number of successful transfers to 100 in less than two years under the Medical Innovations Patent Mitra initiative.

More than 600 scientists, researchers, innovators, administrators and policymakers attended the two-day event, representing ICMR institutes, government organisations and academia. The summit highlighted research publications, technologies and patents, and encouraged collaboration among researchers, industry and policymakers.



An innovation exhibition showcased 17 technologies developed by ICMR institutes and partner institutions. A dedicated session presented 10 technologies and eight patents.

The summit featured syndromic surveillance under the DHR Virus Research and Diagnostic Laboratories scheme. It will create an early-warning network for outbreaks across 70 Virus Research and Diagnostic Laboratories and Infectious Disease Research and Diagnostic Laboratories.

ICMR launched the Dr M K Bhan Young Medical Faculty PhD Portal, a digital information platform for applicants. It also released the Antimicrobial Resistance Annual Report and Standard Operating Procedures, alongside a compendium of 25 stories showing research translated into public outcomes.

The top 100 school students selected through ICMR's SHINE National Competition were recognised for their scientific thinking and contributions to public health.

Technology transfer deals

100	DEALS IN UNDER TWO YEARS
20	LICENSING AGREEMENTS
9	INDIAN COMPANIES
17	TECHNOLOGIES ON SHOW
70	LABS IN SURVEILLANCE NETWORK

GST moves towards 'trust first, verify later' regime



NEW DELHI

The Goods and Services Tax (GST) regime is moving towards a 'Trust First, Verify Later' framework, placing compliant taxpayers at the centre of tax administration, Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) Chairman Vivek Chaturvedi said on Wednesday.

Addressing a conference organised by the PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PHDCCI) on GST process reforms and the outcomes of the 57th GST Council meeting, Chaturvedi said the recommendations made on October 8 reflected a shift towards trust-based governance and recognised honest taxpayers as partners in nation-building.

He said nearly 90 per cent of low-risk refund claims were now being processed automatically. The Council has also proposed expanding input tax credit refund provisions to input services under the inverted duty structure and capital goods used in zero-rated supplies.

For MSMEs, proposed measures include simplified registration, access to e-commerce warehouses as principal places of business for eligible suppliers, quarterly tax payments and optional annual returns for businesses with turnover up to Rs 5 crore.

Key proposed GST reforms

- **Prosecution:** threshold up from Rs 2 crore to Rs 5 crore
- **Refunds:** nearly 90% of low-risk claims processed automatically
- **Transit:** routine interception to be discontinued
- **MSMEs:** quarterly payments and optional annual returns up to Rs 5 crore turnover

India-US trade deal nears finalisation

NEW DELHI

India and the United States are close to concluding negotiations on a bilateral trade agreement, with most major issues nearing resolution, Commerce Secretary Rajesh Agrawal said on Wednesday.

Speaking during a panel discussion titled 'India's Next Leap: Reforms, Competitiveness and Growth' at the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry's (FICCI) Annual General Meeting and Annual Convention curtain raiser, Agrawal said three major aspects of the proposed agreement had been almost finalised.

He indicated that discussions were approaching their final stages, with the legal text already negotiated. However, the formal signing of the agreement will depend on greater clarity regarding the tariff framework of the United States.



The Commerce Secretary said uncertainty had emerged following the US Supreme Court's decision to strike down the previous tariff structure. Negotiators now need a clearer understanding of the future tariff regime before formally concluding the agreement.

He said India was working towards completing negotiations and having all arrangements ready as soon as possible. Meanwhile, the country is also engaged in several trade negotiations with other countries and regions, some of which are under review and expected to gain momentum in the coming weeks and months.

Separately, Agrawal addressed concerns surrounding India's gold imports, estimating that imports would remain manageable at around $30-40 billion this year.

Gold import outlook

- → **Imports:** projected at $30-40 billion this year
- → **Duty:** the existing structure has helped moderate imports
- → **Prices:** the recent moderation is seen as positive
- → **Any duty rise:** a decision for the Department of Revenue

India, Italy to strengthen economic partnership: Goyal

NEW DELHI

Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal on Wednesday said that his current visit to Rome would further strengthen India's economic partnership with Italy, unlock fresh investment opportunities and open new avenues for businesses in both countries.

"The article beautifully captures the shared vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni for taking India-Italy ties to greater heights, with a target of achieving 20 billion euros in bilateral trade by 2029," Goyal said in a post on X.

"Look forward to co-chairing with you the 23rd India-Italy Joint Commission for Economic Cooperation and the 4th India-Italy Business Forum. With bilateral trade having doubled in 10 years, these engagements will further strengthen our economic partnership, unlock fresh investment opportunities and open new avenues for businesses in both countries," Goyal added.



Tajani wrote: "I am delighted to welcome back to Italy my friend Piyush Goyal, Minister of Commerce and Industry. Together, we will chair the 23rd edition of the Italy-India Joint Commission for Economic Cooperation and the fourth Italy-India Business Forum in only two years. The message is clear: Italy and India are determined to enhance their economic and trade partnership."

"Bilateral trade exchange has doubled in 10 years. Our prime ministers have set the target of 20 billion euros by 2029. India is already among the priority countries of our Export Promotion Plan. But for us, it is much more than a destination market. It is also a crucial partner for industrial cooperation, investment, and joint projects. More trade can be a driver for more investments, in both directions. This is the path we intend to pursue. The right conditions are all in place," Tajani stated.

'Govt committed to returning unclaimed investor funds to rightful owners'

NEW DELHI

The government is committed to ensuring that unclaimed investor money is returned to its rightful owners, Minister of State for Corporate Affairs Harsh Malhotra said while inaugurating a Niveshak Shivir organised by the Investor Education and Protection Fund Authority (IEPFA) in the national capital, according to an official statement on Wednesday.

"The government must reach out to the people so that money belonging to citizens is returned to its rightful owners," Malhotra said at the investor facilitation camp jointly organised by IEPFA, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) and market infrastructure institutions.

The minister said over 62,700 investor claims were approved during the last financial year, while more than 2,500 investors have received in-person assistance through previous Niveshak Shivirs, according to the statement from the Ministry of Corporate Affairs.



He added that the initiative would be expanded to more cities in the coming months. The one-day camp that was held here provided claimants with face-to-face grievance redressal, claim facilitation and assistance in recovering unclaimed dividends and shares.

Dedicated service desks helped investors complete KYC formalities, update nominations and resolve pending claims related to dividends and shares that had remained unclaimed for six to seven years, enabling direct resolution without intermediaries.

Malhotra also met 'Niveshak Didis', volunteers associated with IEPFA's investor awareness programme aimed at improving financial literacy in regional areas, particularly among women. He presented letters of appreciation recognising their contribution to investor education efforts.

Investor camps

62,700+ investor claims approved last financial year

2,500+ investors helped in person at earlier camps

India expanding wind power capacity in transition to clean energy

NEW DELHI

India's wind energy capacity has more than doubled over the past 12 years from 21 GW to 59.20 GW, marking the country's transition towards a cleaner and more sustainable energy future, according to an official factsheet issued on Wednesday.

India is ranked 4th globally in installed wind power capacity, which accounts for approximately 19.8 per cent of the country's total installed renewable energy capacity of 299.25 GW.

India's gross wind power potential is estimated at 695.5 GW at 120 metres and 1,163.9 GW at 150 metres above ground level. The country's vast wind resource base provides a strong foundation for achieving 100 GW wind capacity by 2030 and 156 GW by 2036.

More than 900 wind-monitoring stations have been installed nationwide by NIWE to map wind resources and identify high-potential sites for wind energy development. Wind potential maps have been developed at 50 m, 80 m, 100 m, 120 m, and 150 m hub heights.

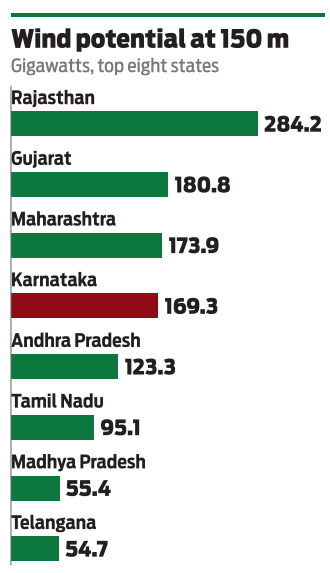


The government has set up Rs 6,853 crore Viability Gap Funding (VGF) for 1,000 MW of offshore wind projects, comprising 500 MW each off the coasts of Gujarat and Tamil Nadu.

A 500 MW pilot project was launched under the Contracts for Difference (CfD), which is a mechanism designed to reduce price volatility and provide revenue certainty to renewable energy developers.

Other steps undertaken by the government include the constitution of a Task Force in January 2026 to address regulatory, land, transmission, and implementation challenges, and the introduction of green energy open access rules to facilitate direct procurement of renewable power by industries.

Wind potential at 150 m
Gigawatts, top eight states



Figures: government factsheet

MARKET CONFIDENCE GROWS

Modi highlights India's expanding capital markets

MUMBAI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has highlighted India's growing capital markets, saying the country remains one of the world's fastest-growing major economies and its financial markets have expanded significantly alongside economic growth.

In a message delivered for the 65th General Assembly and Annual Meeting of the World Federation of Exchanges (WFE), hosted by the National Stock Exchange (NSE), Modi said increasing participation by citizens in capital markets reflected growing confidence in India's economic future.



He noted that investments through avenues such as mutual funds had reached unprecedented levels, allowing more citizens to participate in the country's economic development. He added that expanding capital markets had enabled businesses to raise funds while providing investors with greater opportunities to contribute to India's growth.

The Prime Minister highlighted efforts over the past decade to make India's financial system more inclusive and efficient through wider access to banking, insurance and digital financial services.

> *"Technology may determine the speed at which markets evolve, but trust will always remain central to the growth of this ecosystem."*
> **NARENDRA MODI** Prime Minister

He also pointed to the country's Digital Public Infrastructure, particularly the Jan Dhan-Aadhaar-Mobile (JAM) Trinity and Unified Payments Interface (UPI), as examples of how technology could transform financial service delivery on a massive scale.

According to Modi, technology-driven improvements in market infrastructure and easier access to investment platforms have further broadened participation in financial markets.

Addressing the changing global financial ecosystem, he said artificial intelligence and emerging technologies were creating new opportunities while raising concerns about cybersecurity, market integrity and investor protection.

Quick Read

Fiji declares disaster amid severe El Niño drought

FIJI

Fiji has declared a national state of disaster following prolonged dry weather and worsening water shortages caused by El Niño conditions. Prime Minister Sitiveni Rabuka said the Cabinet approved the decision after reaching emergency warning levels. The government has allocated 20 million Fijian dollars (around 8.9 million US dollars) to support affected communities. Its priorities include providing safe drinking water, protecting public health and supporting farmers. More than two million litres of emergency water have already been delivered to affected island communities.

India-Oman strengthen security and maritime cooperation

MUSCAT

India and Oman have discussed ways to strengthen cooperation in security, law enforcement, counter-terrorism, cybersecurity, artificial intelligence, energy and maritime affairs during their 11th Strategic Dialogue in Muscat. Deputy National Security Adviser Pavan Kapoor met Oman's National Security Council Secretary General, Major General Idris Abdulrahman Al Kindi, for the discussions. Both countries also reviewed regional developments and agreed to maintain close coordination to support peace and stability.

India, EU strengthen strategic defence partnership

BRUSSELS

Minister of State for Defence Sanjay Seth met European Parliament President Roberta Metsola at the Schuman Security and Defence Forum 2026 in Brussels on Wednesday. Seth thanked Metsola for her strong support for the India-European Union strategic partnership. He also recalled recent high-level meetings between India and the European Parliament. During the event, Seth met Japan's State Minister of Defence, Kiyoshi Odawara. Both highlighted the strong partnership between India and Japan and noted that their Defence and Foreign Ministers would soon meet in Tokyo for the 2+2 Dialogue.

WSC chairman calls Balochistan situation colonialism

GERMANY

World Sindhi Congress (WSC) Chairman Lakhu Luhana has described the situation in Balochistan as "fascist colonialism" during an event organised by the Baloch National Movement (BNM) in Germany. He raised concerns over alleged human rights violations and the difficulties faced by local communities in the region.

Trump meets Xi, APEC leaders during Shenzhen visit

President Donald Trump arrived in China on Wednesday for diplomatic talks with world leaders and the APEC summit.



Leaders pose for the group photograph at the 33rd APEC summit in Shenzhen

Trump's Asia week

- **TUESDAY** — Quad leaders meet in Manila
- **WEDNESDAY** — Arrives in Shenzhen for APEC; Xi welcomes him
- **THURSDAY** — Three-way talks with Xi and Putin

SHENZHEN

US President Donald Trump greeted Chinese President Xi Jinping and Chinese First Lady Peng Liyuan during his visit to Shenzhen, China, on Wednesday. He also joined other world leaders for a group photograph at the 33rd Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) summit.

Trump arrived in Shenzhen to attend the important international meeting, where he received a personal welcome from Xi Jinping. The two leaders exchanged a warm embrace before Trump greeted other Chinese officials present at the airport.

Chinese officials welcomed the US President with a formal ceremony.

Following the welcome ceremony, Trump greeted Madame Peng Liyuan and stood alongside other leaders attending the APEC summit for a group photograph.

Three-way talks

Trump is scheduled to hold a trilateral meeting with Xi Jinping and Russian President Vladimir Putin on Thursday. The discussions are expected to focus on major international developments, including the ongoing conflict involving Iran and the war in Ukraine.

Before travelling to China, Trump attended the ASEAN summit and the Quad leaders' meeting in Manila, Philippines.

During his visit, he also announced a new trade agreement with the Philippines, highlighting trade and economic cooperation between the two countries.

Meanwhile, Putin had already held bilateral talks with Xi Jinping in Shenzhen ahead of the planned three-way meeting. Both leaders discussed international relations and the importance of cooperation amid global uncertainty.

UKPNP seeks UN probe into Rawalakot killings

A political organisation has urged global authorities to investigate civilian deaths, alleged human rights violations and restrictions affecting students in the disputed region.

GENEVA

The United Kashmir People's National Party (UKPNP) has called on the United Nations to conduct an independent investigation into reported civilian killings and human rights violations in Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir (PoJK). The organisation also raised concerns over the reported death of 14-year-old Ayesha Saqib in Rawalakot.

Sardar Shaukat Ali Kashmiri raised these concerns during the Sixth Session of the Forum on Human Rights, Democracy and the Rule of Law, held in Geneva on November 16 and 17.

During his address, Kashmiri highlighted the reported killing of Ayesha Saqib, a ninth-grade student who was allegedly shot on November 12 in Mutialmera, Rawalakot. Her 11-year-old sister, Jawairiya Saqib, was also reportedly critically injured in the incident.

According to information shared by UKPNP spokesperson Sardar Nasir Aziz Khan on social media, the two sisters were playing outside their family home when the shooting took place. Local activists have alleged the involvement of Pakistani security forces.

Kashmiri also expressed concern over the closure of schools and colleges across Rawalakot since June 5. He said that restrictions on internet and mobile services had affected students' education, examinations and academic activities.

He further raised concerns over reported civilian casualties and alleged use of force against local people.

The UKPNP has put forward five major demands, including an independent UN fact-finding mission, protection of civilians, reopening of educational institutions, restoration of communication services and accountability for those responsible.

India, Japan strengthen ties for regional stability

TOKYO

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar has called for stronger cooperation between India and Japan, saying their partnership is important for maintaining peace and stability in the Indo-Pacific region.

Speaking at the opening session of Raisina Tokyo 2026 on Wednesday, Jaishankar said both countries must work more closely to face changing global challenges. He stressed that India and Japan should strengthen their national capabilities while protecting their interests and supporting a free and open Indo-Pacific.

The minister pointed out that the world is facing several challenges, including economic uncertainty, conflicts, disruptions in trade, competition over resources and growing concerns about technology. He said these changes have made trusted partnerships more important than ever.

Jaishankar explained that India and Japan have maintained friendly relations



S. Jaishankar

throughout history and have never faced any major conflict of interest. He added that both countries have strong reasons to expand their cooperation in important areas.

He also highlighted the importance of political leadership in building stronger relations. He said the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi could provide fresh momentum to the partnership.

Over the past three decades, economic relations between the two countries have grown, along with their political understanding. Both nations are also members of the Quad and partners in the G4 initiative, which works towards reforming the United Nations.

Firefighters find no fire after smoke at CIA HQ

VIRGINIA

Firefighters responded to reports of smoke at the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) headquarters in McLean, Virginia, on Tuesday evening. However, after inspecting the building, officials confirmed that there was no fire or other emergency.

According to the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department, emergency teams arrived at the CIA headquarters shortly after 5 pm local time following reports of smoke inside the building.

Heating system

After examining the area, firefighters found that the smoke was coming from the building's heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) system. The system helps control the temperature and airflow inside the building.

In an update shared on social media platform X, the fire department confirmed that no fire or emergency had been found. It also stated that its teams had completed their work and left the location.

The incident led to an emergency response at the headquarters, which is located in the Langley area of McLean, Fairfax County.

Fox News correspondent Jennifer Griffin also reported that a fire alarm had gone off at the headquarters. According to her update, the all-clear was given within 15 minutes after firefighters found no fire.

There were no reports of injuries in connection with the incident. Authorities did not provide further details about what caused the smoke or whether the incident affected the agency's daily operations.

The alarm at Langley

WHEN	Tuesday, shortly after 5 pm
WHERE	CIA headquarters, McLean, Virginia
CAUSE	Smoke from the HVAC system
ALL-CLEAR	Within 15 minutes

Rubio praises Quad meeting, hails stronger cooperation

PHILIPPINES

US Secretary of State Marco Rubio has described the recent Quad Leaders' Meeting in Manila as an important and successful gathering. He said the discussions were useful and helped strengthen cooperation among the four member countries.

Speaking on Wednesday, Rubio said the meeting was excellent, important and very fruitful. He also mentioned that preparations were already underway for the next leaders' meeting and that the four countries were looking forward to an upcoming Business Leaders' Meeting.

Rubio explained that foreign ministers from the four countries had met five times this year to prepare for the leaders' discussions. He said these meetings had helped build a strong foundation for cooperation and future plans.

US Ambassador to India Sergio Gor shared Rubio's remarks in a video on social media platform X. He said the Quad was making progress and working towards stronger partnerships among its four members.

On the Quad table

- Maritime security
- Reliable supply chains
- New technologies
- Disaster response

The meeting was attended by US President Donald Trump, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese and Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi. The leaders met in Manila on Tuesday to discuss important regional and international issues.

The discussions covered areas such as maritime security, reliable supply chains, new technologies and disaster response.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi said the meeting had given fresh energy to the shared goals of the four countries.

The Quad countries are now preparing for further discussions, including the Business Leaders' Meeting scheduled for 2027.

India, Azerbaijan strengthen cultural ties

AZERBAIJAN

India and Azerbaijan are looking at new ways to strengthen their cultural relationship through tourism, films, education, music and other activities. The two countries have discussed several plans to bring their people closer and promote their shared history and traditions.

India's Ambassador to Azerbaijan, Abhay Kumar, met Azerbaijan's Minister of Culture, Adil Karimli, on Tuesday to discuss ways to improve cultural cooperation. During the meeting, the minister congratulated the ambassador on his appointment and wished him success.

Both sides spoke about the importance of the Ateshgah Fire Temple, also known as the Maha Jwala Devi Temple, which attracts Indian tourists and pilgrims. They discussed ways to promote the temple's historical importance and encourage more visitors from both countries.

Ambassador Abhay Kumar (centre)

DID YOU KNOW?
The Ateshgah Fire Temple near Baku, also known as the Maha Jwala Devi Temple, is an 18th-century monument with inscriptions in Devanagari and Gurmukhi.

The temple, located near Baku, is an 18th-century monument with a much older history. It also has inscriptions in Devanagari and Gurmukhi scripts, showing the long-standing connection between India and Azerbaijan.

The discussions also focused on Indian cinema, which has gained popularity in Azerbaijan. Both countries explored opportunities for joint film production and better cooperation in the film industry.

Other areas discussed included cultural festivals, music, performing arts, literature, book exhibitions, translation and educational programmes.

Amnesty demands urgent medical care for Khan

PAKISTAN

International human rights organisation Amnesty International has raised serious concerns over the health conditions of former Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan and his wife, Bushra Bibi, during their imprisonment. The organisation has urged Pakistani authorities to provide both of them with proper medical treatment and restore their access to family members and lawyers.

In a statement shared on social media platform X, Amnesty International said that the continued denial of healthcare, family visits and regular meetings with legal representatives violated Pakistan's international human rights commitments.

Amnesty says denying Khan healthcare, family visits and lawyers violates Pakistan's human rights commitments

Solitary confinement

The organisation stated that Imran Khan, 74, had been kept in solitary confinement and faced increasing restrictions on contact with others. It also raised concerns about his reported blood pressure problems and said that he had not been allowed to meet independent doctors, despite an earlier Supreme Court order directing his transfer to a private hospital.

Amnesty International also expressed concern over Bushra Bibi's eye condition, which could affect her eyesight if proper treatment was not provided.

The organisation pointed out that Imran Khan had not been allowed to meet most of his family members since December 2025.

Amnesty further mentioned the detention of three of Khan's sisters in September. While two were released, his sister Aleema Khan continues to remain in custody at Kot Lakhpat Prison in Lahore.

The organisation has demanded adequate healthcare, regular family visits and access to lawyers for the couple. It has also called for Aleema Khan's release and urged authorities to respect the family's basic rights.

INDIA ECONOMY GROWTH

India's growth remains strong: Rajnath

TOKYO

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has said that India's economic growth remains strong despite the ongoing crisis in West Asia and difficulties in the movement of oil tankers through the Strait of Hormuz. He stated that the country's growth rate stands at around 7.8 per cent, showing that international challenges have not slowed down the economy.

Speaking to members of the Indian community in Tokyo on Wednesday, Singh said India continues to be one of the world's fastest-growing economies.

Referring to the difficulties faced by oil tankers passing through the Strait of Hormuz, Singh said the movement of oil to India had become challenging.

Out of poverty

Singh also spoke about India's development over the past twelve and a half years under Prime Minister Narendra Modi. He claimed that nearly 50 crore people had moved out of poverty during this period. He added that changes in the welfare system had helped government benefits reach people directly.

Digital payments

Highlighting digital payments, Singh said transactions worth Rs 31.53 lakh crore were recorded through the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) in October alone. He also stated that India's foreign exchange reserves had reached 700 billion US dollars.

Speaking about the defence sector, Singh said India's defence exports had increased to Rs 40,000 crore, while defence production had crossed Rs 1.80 lakh crore. He also highlighted progress in indigenous defence technology and the development of the Kaveri engine.

7.8% growth rate

$700 bn forex reserves

Meanwhile, India's Ambassador to Japan, Nagma Mallick, said around 60,000 Indians live in Japan and contribute to different sectors, including technology, education, finance and hospitality.

Himanshu Nandal wins 3 golds in para swimming Nationals

Himanshu Nandal clinched three gold medals at the national championships, continuing his impressive run following three bronze medals at the Asian Para Games.

BHOPAL

Indian para swimmer Himanshu Nandal won three gold medals at the 26th National Para Swimming Championships held in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh, from November 12 to 15. He secured victories in the men's 50m Freestyle S11, 100m Backstroke S11 and 100m Breaststroke SB11 events.

The championships witnessed participation from 409 athletes competing across different events and classifications. Nandal's performance added to his growing achievements in national and international para swimming competitions.

His latest success follows an impressive campaign at the 2026 Asian Para Games in Aichi-Nagoya, Japan, where he secured three bronze medals in the men's 400m Freestyle S11, 100m Breaststroke SB11 and 100m Freestyle S11 events.

Speaking about his achievement, Nandal said winning three national gold medals after returning with three Asian Para Games bronze medals had boosted his confidence. He thanked his coaches, support staff and supporters for their contribution to his journey.

The achievement highlights Nandal's continued progress in para swimming as he works towards reaching greater milestones for India.



Centre seeks greater coordination among sports universities

Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviya has urged 13 Sports Universities to collaborate, share resources and develop specialised expertise in coaching, research and emerging professional fields to strengthen India's sporting ecosystem.



- Mandaviya chairs meeting with 13 Sports Universities in New Delhi.
- Calls for collaboration and resource-sharing among institutions.
- Urges specialisation in coaching, sports science and research.
- Stresses professional education in sports management and law.
- Raksha Khadse and Sports Secretary Hari Ranjan Rao attend.

NEW DELHI

Union Sports Minister Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya on Wednesday called for greater collaboration among the country's Sports Universities, emphasising their potential to become centres of excellence for athlete development, coaching, research and professional education to strengthen India's sporting ecosystem.

Chairing a meeting with representatives of 13 Sports Universities in New Delhi, Mandaviya urged institutions to move beyond isolated efforts and focus on sharing knowledge, resources and expertise. He said coordinated efforts would help develop stronger capabilities across different areas of the sports sector.

"Our vision is to make Sports Universities the hub of the entire sports ecosystem, where athletes, coaches, training, research, competitions, and world-class infrastructure are all developed together," Mandaviya said.

The Minister encouraged each university to develop specialised expertise in particular sports, coaching, sports science and research. He stressed that while institutions should build individual strengths, they must also collaborate through coach exchanges, knowledge-sharing initiatives and resource pooling.

"We will no longer work in silos. By integrating our efforts, resources, and expertise, we will build a strong, collaborative national sports ecosystem," he added. Mandaviya also highlighted the need to expand the scope of Sports Universities beyond athlete training and competitive performance. He called for greater focus on emerging professional fields, including sports science, sports law and sports tourism, to create skilled professionals and strengthen institutional capabilities.

He further urged universities to contribute to sports management and administration, creating a broader professional workforce for the sector.

Minister of State for Youth Affairs and Sports Raksha Khadse, Sports Secretary Hari Ranjan Rao, and vice-chancellors and representatives of the 13 universities attended the meeting.



Ahmedabad set to host national police badminton tournament

AHMEDABAD

Ahmedabad is set to host the Third All India Police Badminton Cluster-2026, bringing together 1,162 police officers and personnel representing 38 states, Union Territories and central police units for a six-day national-level sporting event.

Organised by Gujarat Police, the tournament will take place at the Veer Savarkar Sports Complex from November 19 to 24. The competition will feature badminton and table tennis events, providing police and paramilitary personnel an opportunity to showcase their sporting abilities while promoting fitness and camaraderie.

The inaugural ceremony will be held on Thursday under the chairmanship of Gujarat Director General of Police (DGP) Gyanendra Singh Malik. According to the state police, 38 teams have registered for the tournament. The participants include 890 male and 272 female players. Of the total participants, 463 are gazetted officers, while 699 belong to the non-gazetted category. The participating contingent includes personnel from Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Telangana and several other states.

India storm into blind cricket Asia cup final

DHAKA

India stormed into the final of the Asia Cup Cricket for the Blind 2026 after defeating hosts Bangladesh by eight wickets in the semi-final in Dhaka on Wednesday. The victory has set up a high-profile title clash against archrivals Pakistan on November 20.

The Indian team will now have an opportunity to avenge its narrow one-wicket defeat against Pakistan during the league stage when the two sides meet in the championship match.

After winning the toss and opting to field, India produced a disciplined bowling and fielding performance to restrict Bangladesh to 123/7 in 20 overs. Indian captain T. Durga Rao led the bowling attack with figures of 1/10 in three overs. Lokesha, Debaraj Behera and Sunil Ramesh also picked up a wicket each.

India's fielders further strengthened the team's effort by effecting three run-outs. Muhammad Tahafiz remained Bangladesh's highest scorer with an unbeaten 36 off 30 deliveries.

Chasing 124, India comfortably reached 124/2 in just 13.2 overs, securing victory with 40 balls remaining.

Sunil Ramesh was the standout performer with the bat, smashing an unbeaten 63 off 41 deliveries, including seven boundaries, at a strike rate of 153.66. Sanjay Kumar Shah contributed 32 off 25 balls, while Sukhram remained unbeaten on 20 off 15 deliveries.

Ahead of the final, captain Durga Rao expressed confidence in the team's preparations and said the players had learned valuable lessons from their previous encounter against Pakistan.

Dr Mahantesh G K, chairman of the Cricket Association for the Blind in India (CABI), congratulated the team and backed the players to lift the championship.

"We played well against Bangladesh, and this win gives us confidence going into the final.

We have learned from our previous match and will focus on playing our best." - T. Durga Rao (Indian Team Captain) "I am confident our players will give their best in the final.

India vs Bangladesh

TEAM	SCORE	OVERS
Bangladesh	123/7	20
India	124/2	13.2

India won by eight wickets

FINAL India vs Pakistan • November 20



Japan's Tashima submits bid for FIFA presidence

TOKYO

Football Association (JFA) Honorary President Kozo Tashima said on Wednesday he has submitted his candidacy for the FIFA presidency after securing the support of five national federations. Nominations for the FIFA presidential election close at 2259 GMT on Wednesday, four months before the 77th FIFA Congress in Rabat on March 18, where the vote will take place.

Candidates need at least five member associations to nominate them. They should also have played an active role in football for two of the last five years as a player or official within FIFA, a confederation or a national association.

"On November 17, the JFA submitted a letter to FIFA nominating JFA Honorary President Kozo Tashima as a candidate for (FIFA)," the JFA said in a statement.

Tashima is a former Japan international and youth coach and the first Japanese candidate to stand for FIFA president.

He has served on the FIFA Council since 2015.

"The JFA submitted to FIFA a letter nominating me as a candidate in the FIFA presidential election," Tashima said in a statement shared by the JFA.

"I would like to once again express my gratitude to President (Tsuneyasu) Miyamoto and all the members of the board.

I would also like to sincerely thank the football associations of many countries who gave me the necessary support for this nomination.

Former Spain, Chelsea star Juan Mata retires from football

NEW DELHI

Spain's 2010 FIFA World Cup winner Juan Mata announced his retirement from professional football at the age of 38 on Wednesday, ending a career spanning nearly two decades.

The former Chelsea and Manchester United midfielder leaves behind an impressive record of domestic, European and international achievements.

Mata began his football journey in Real Madrid's academy before establishing himself at Valencia, where he won the Copa del Rey in 2008. He joined Chelsea in 2011 and played a crucial role in the club's 2012 UEFA Champions League triumph. He also won the FA Cup and Europa League during his time in England.

In January 2014, Mata moved to Manchester United, making 285 appearances over eight-and-a-half years. He won four trophies with the club, including the 2016 FA Cup and 2017 Europa League. Later, he secured league titles with Galatasaray and Japan's Vissel Kobe.

At international level, Mata earned 41 caps for Spain, scoring 10 goals. He was part of the squad that won the 2010 World Cup and European Championships in 2008 and 2012. His final playing spell was with Australia's Melbourne Victory, where he recorded five goals and 13 assists in 24 appearances during the 2025-26 season.



Beyond football, Mata co-founded the Common Goal initiative, encouraging players to support social causes. He has now moved towards football administration as a shareholder of Melbourne Victory.

World Cup to spark lucrative period for women's game

STOCKHOLM

The 2027 Women's World Cup will kick off a three-year run of major tournaments that could lift players' earnings and create new opportunities for agents, says Maria Karlsson De Cecco, founder of CMG. The Stockholm-based agency, which represents around 100 clients in the women's game – three-quarters of whom are players – is focused on helping its athletes navigate a crucial period.

"We now have three years with the World Cup, the Olympics and then the European Championship, so these are three incredibly important years in terms of the careers of our clients, with opportunities for significantly better incomes," she told in an interview in Stockholm.

"Part of that comes from the prize and compensation money that comes from FIFA or UEFA, but if you perform well during the World Cup, you have every chance of getting a much better contract with your current club or future employer."

For Karlsson De Cecco, it's a long way from the first deal she made as a teenager in Gothenburg more than two decades ago, where she was promised 200 Swedish crowns ($19.74) for every game she appeared in, and she welcomes the arrival of more professionalism in the women's game.

"When we started our agency in 2015, we were almost too early — in our first years, calls with sporting directors would often be about why they needed to pay an agency fee, to motivate and explain what we do for our clients," she said. The former defender and midfielder was one of the first Swedes to sign a professional contract in England's top flight, moving to Doncaster Belles in 2011. Since then, the game's popularity has exploded, with England twice winning the European Championship and more and more cash flowing into the sport.

AIFF lodges complaint over alleged racist gesture

NEW DELHI

The All-India Football Federation (AIFF) has formally lodged a complaint with the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) over an alleged racist gesture by a Palestine player towards India U17 men's team captain Dallalmuon Gangte during their AFC U17 Asian Cup 2027 Qualifiers match in Kuala Lumpur.

The incident reportedly occurred during India's 4-1 victory over Palestine on November 17. A Palestine player was seen making a nose-fanning gesture while standing close to Gangte. Footage of the incident from the live broadcast subsequently went viral, drawing condemnation.

In its official statement, the AIFF confirmed that it had approached the continental governing body and requested a review of the available match footage, along with appropriate action under applicable regulations.

"AIFF considers any form of racism or discriminatory behaviour extremely serious. Such conduct is contrary to the fundamental values of football, which are built on respect, equality, fair play and sportsmanship. There is no place for racism or discrimination in the game, and such behaviour must not be accepted or tolerated," the federation said.

The complaint comes after an impressive performance by India's U17 side, coached by Mehrajuddin Wadoo, which maintained its unbeaten record in Group E.

Kamgouhao Doungel opened the scoring in the eighth minute before Palestine captain Yazan Khalifah converted a penalty in the 32nd minute to make it 1-1 at half-time.

The second half was delayed by more than two hours due to heavy rain, forcing both teams to remain in their dressing rooms.

India returned strongly after the restart, with Mukundo Singh Ningthoujam restoring the lead in the 52nd minute. Gangte extended the advantage seven minutes later, while Zoramdinthara Lalhunmawia sealed the 4-1 victory in the 89th minute.

"AIFF considers any form of racism or discriminatory behaviour extremely serious. There is no place for racism or discrimination in the game, and such behaviour must not be accepted or tolerated." - All India Football Federation (Official Statement).

"In its complaint, AIFF has asked the AFC to review the incident, examine the available match footage, and take appropriate action under the applicable regulations." - All India Football Federation (Official Statement).

Prendergast cleared to face South Africa

WALES

Ireland flyhalf Sam Prendergast has been cleared to feature in Saturday's Nations Championship clash against South Africa after a disciplinary committee dismissed a citing against him for alleged dangerous play.

The 23-year-old became the first player to be cited under World Rugby's new regulations following an alleged hip-drop tackle on Fiji-born player Peceli Yato during Ireland's 43-15 victory in Dublin last Saturday.

Prendergast was not penalised during the match but was subsequently cited over the incident, which occurred in the first half. Yato sustained an injury during the tackle and left the field shortly after scoring a try. The matter was reviewed by a Nations Championship disciplinary committee, which announced its decision on Wednesday after hearing evidence from the Irish flyhalf and submissions from Ireland's legal representative Derek Hegarty and head coach Andy Farrell.

In its statement, the committee confirmed that it had unanimously decided to dismiss the citing after considering the evidence presented by the player. "Having heard detailed evidence from Sam Prendergast and submissions made by Derek Hegarty and Andy Farrell, the committee unanimously determined that the player had, to the required standard, proved that the citing should be dismissed," the committee said.

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